

# STARS AND STRIPES®

## Stripes names Athletes of the Quarter

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Zama American  
senior wrestler David Burnett



## Yokota library offers free wireless Internet hook-up

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## 'Simpsons' actor finds she can handle 'More'

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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005

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# McCain concerned over readiness in Pacific

Senator fears demands in Middle East diverting attention, resources away from threats posed by North Korea and China

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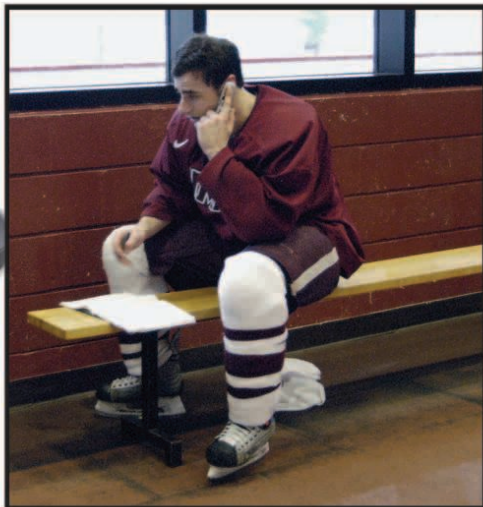
## Student-athlete scores with college fund for children of troops killed in war

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Peter Trovato, founder of a charity to help Massachusetts children who've lost parents to fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, uses his cell phone to make calls on behalf of the endowment. He finds time to make such calls between practices with the University of Massachusetts ice hockey team at the rink in Amherst.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION  
BY MORGAN LOOSLE/Stars and Stripes





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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Immigrant smuggling trial:** Survivors of the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt have said they pounded and screamed as they tried to let Tyrone Williams know they were dying inside his sweltering tractor-trailer.

Williams didn't let them out for four more hours as he transported them from South Texas in May 2003, prosecutors said. By then, 17 of the more than 70 illegal immigrants inside had died from dehydration, hyperthermia and suffocation.

Opening arguments were set for Tuesday in Williams' much-delayed trial.

**Staten Island ferry crash:** Minutes after the ferry Andrew J. Barberi slammed into a Staten Island pier, assistant captain Richard Smith took the blame, allegedly telling ferry supervisor Patrick Ryan, "I blacked out. It's all my fault. I killed all these people."

In the 17 months since the ship-shredding disaster claimed 11 lives, the National Transportation Safety Board has shifted its focus from Smith's conduct that day to Ryan's supposedly slack grip on the ferry operations.

The NTSB was set to issue its final report on the crash Tuesday, including recommendations for changes in ferry operations.

**Beauty queen shooting:** A jury was chosen Monday for the murder trial of a Savannah, Ga., beauty queen who fatally shot her two-time boyfriend outside the other woman's house.

Sharon N. Redmond, 23, faces life in prison if convicted in the slaying of Kevin Shorter during a confrontation four months after Redmond was crowned Miss Savannah.

She has admitted firing the shot that killed Shorter. Opening statements were set for Tuesday.



Redmond

## World

**Philippines murder convictions:** The Philippine Supreme Court on Tuesday threw out a petition by soldiers requesting a new trial over their convictions in the 1983 murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr.

The 15 soldiers each are serving two life terms for the murder of Aquino, who was killed while in the custody of soldiers on Aug. 21, 1983, moments after he stepped off



**Toxic railroad leak:** Used hazardous material safety gear and suits lie near an emptied rail tanker after it was pumped free of toxic waste Monday in Salt Lake City. The railroad tank car that leaked toxic fumes, forcing some 6,000 people from their homes, was not designed to hold the mixture of highly corrosive acids with which it had been filled, the car's owner said Monday. Louis Cononelles, spokesman for Kennecott Utah Copper, said the car was supposed to be used only for hauling sulfuric acid.

a plane bringing him home from exile in the United States.

The soldiers said a new witness and forensic evidence would clear them. However, the Supreme Court said the new witness merely corroborated the testimony of the defense witnesses during the trial.

**Munch art recovered:** Police in Oslo, Norway, on Tuesday were holding eight people on suspicion of theft after recovering three stolen works of art by Norwegian master Edvard Munch, including a unique watercolor titled "Blue Dress," officials said.

The artworks, valued at some \$257,000, were found less than 24 hours after thieves pried them loose Sunday night from the walls of a restaurant at the upscale Hotel Refnes, near the southern town of Moss, police said.

Officers received a tip that people were seen carrying paintings into an Oslo house.

**Asian bird flu:** The World Health Organization says seven Vietnamese patients who initially tested negative for bird flu have been found to be carrying the virus after their samples were retested — suggesting that avian influenza may be more widespread than originally believed.

All seven, who were first tested in January, have since recovered. WHO regional

spokesman Peter Cordingley said Tuesday.

"There's no doubt. The WHO accepts that we are missing cases. It's quite possible that some people are falling sick and their symptoms are very light and they don't end up in hospital," he said.

**British tsunami victim:** Officials in Thailand have formally identified the body of British fashion photographer Simon Atlee, who was killed by the Asian tsunami while vacationing with his girlfriend, Czech supermodel Petra Nemcova, an official said Tuesday.

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Office confirmed that the body of Atlee, 33, had been found and was identified on March 3. She said his family were aware and British officials were working on having the body repatriated.

**Japan mad cow precautions:** Anyone who visited Britain or France for a day or more between 1980 and 1996 will be banned from donating blood in Japan, an official said Tuesday, as the government tightens restrictions on blood supplies because of worries over the human form of mad cow disease.

The rule would bar hundreds of thousands of people from donating blood and may severely diminish blood supplies, media reports warned.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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# Free as the air

Yokota library offers wireless Internet service

By T.D. FLACK

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota's library began offering the base's first free wireless Internet connection Monday, according to 374th Services Division officials.

In an e-mail response to a Stripes query, Jeffrey B. Conner, Yokota's library director, said the overall effect "will be better customer service" that "provides the library with the best way to meet changing customer technological needs."

In other words, just bring your own laptop to the library and there'll be no more waiting in line at the library for a wired computer and no more time limits because other people are waiting.

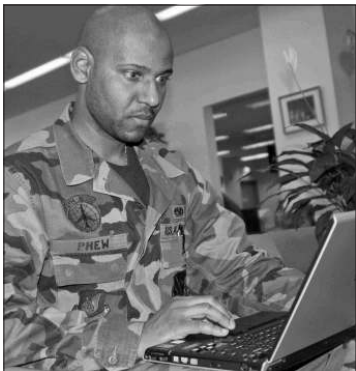
Conner credited John Iosefo, library systems administrator, for getting the system running.

Iosefo said the wireless connection is "fast," with a maximum capability connection speed of 54 megabits per second.

By comparison, the 11 Internet-wired computers in the library run at about a 10 mbps connection speed.

Iosefo said he's running two of the library's desktop computers off of the wireless connection and "it works great."

He said people should be able to access the signal from within



T.D. FLACK/Stars and Stripes

**Air Force Staff Sgt. Tyrell Phew connects to the new wireless Internet connection Tuesday at the base library, Yokota Air Base, Japan. The 374th Services Division began offering the free service Monday.**

about 150 feet of the router, located at the library's front desk.

The University of Maryland pays for the Internet service at the library as a service to the base community, base officials said.

Conner said the feature was very popular, even before the wireless connection was made available this week.

Staff Sgt. Tyrell Phew, 374th Maintenance Squadron, was in the library with his laptop during lunch Tuesday afternoon.

"It's the best thing they've done in a while," he said of the service. "It's a great service to the community."

He said his wife is taking online college classes and the limited access with the wired computers "could be a hassle."

While the library staff is glad to offer the service, they cannot offer technical assistance, according to a Services Division news release, and those wishing to access the signal must have wireless access already installed on their computer equipment.

The release also warned that some disadvantages exist, including that walks, conflicting signals and distance can disrupt wireless signals; printer access is unavailable; and wireless connections can leave a user's computer vulnerable to unwanted access.

Call the library at DSN 225-7490 or DSN 225-8893 for more information.

E-mail T.D. Flack at: flack@spstripes.osd.mil

# McCain: Pacific forces require more attention

Navy has drawn down too quickly, Arizona senator tells Fallon and LaPorte

By LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain said he has serious concerns about the current and planned U.S. military presence in the Pacific and said operations in Iraq and Afghanistan "may be mortgaging our future."

The comments came as Adm. William J. Fallon, Commander of U.S. Pacific Command and Army Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, Commander of United States Forces Korea, testified before Congress on Tuesday to discuss their operational plans related to the 2006 defense budget.

McCain called the Middle East operations "legitimate demands" but said he worries that not enough attention is being paid to the military's ability to react to China and North Korea, the next "challenges" the U.S. military will face.

The Arizona Republican criticized the military for not yet determining if Japan will allow a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to replace the USS Kitty Hawk when it is decommissioned in 2008, and he said the total number of ships in the region has dropped too quickly in the last several years.

"I think most of us who appreciate history recognize the importance of sea power not only in conflicts but for presence," McCain said.

"Every president, Republican or Democrat, his first call is for a carrier task force to go wherever there is a crisis. I don't mean to denigrate the role of the Army or Marines or Air Force or anyone

else.

"Traditionally we've had to rely, particularly in the Pacific, on naval presence," McCain said.

"I'm specifically concerned about the drawdown in this area of the world. This is a situation perhaps we're not preparing for adequately."

Fallon, who assumed command of PACOM less than two weeks ago, said force posture and response will be a top priority for him.

He said even with the planned reductions, today's naval forces have greater efficiency

than ever before and will be able to perform their duties.

That drew a rebuke from McCain.

"I appreciate that increased capability, but if they're in San Diego it's difficult to use it," he told Fallon.

Fallon said the carrier issue will be a major part of the posture discussions but did not comment on Defense Department plans to retire the fleet's other non-nuclear carrier, the USS Kennedy, because of budget concerns.

He did promise to take up the carrier issue with the Japanese government signatory. Sen. John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, echoed McCain's comments to focus on the future of the Pacific forces but said he expects this year's Base Relocation and Closure study and Quadrennial Defense Review will shape those decisions.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shanel@spstripes.osd.mil

# U.S. passport, visa costs increase

By ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

U.S. passport and immigrant visa fees increased Tuesday to pay for embedded computer chips and other security measures, the U.S. Embassy announced.

All passport application and renewal fees for U.S. citizens rose \$12. It now costs \$67 for adults to renew their passport, and \$82 for children under 16. Parents purchasing passports for their newborn children must pay \$82 for a passport and an additional \$65 for a consular report of birth.

"The chip embedded in the cover has the same information as on the page, including the picture," said Judith Bryan, press attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo.

The new security costs also are being applied to immigrant visas, although no change was announced for visitor and other nonimmigrant visas.

Immigrant visas now cost \$380, a \$45 hike. Applications for diversity lottery visas shot from \$100 to \$420, including the \$45 security charge.

Applicants for L-1 visas must pay a \$500 fraud prevention and detection fee. L-1 visas are granted to workers who are being transferred to the United States by multinational companies.

Legal permanent alien residents who have lost a passport and need to re-enter the States will pay \$165, down from \$300.

The State Department is required by law to recover costs of providing most consular services through user fees, according to the embassy. The last major fee revision occurred in 2002.

For information on visa and passport regulations, go to <http://japan.usembassy.gov>, or contact a base passport office.

E-mail Erik Slavin at: slavin@spstripes.osd.mil

## Yokosuka fund-raiser

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Oakleaf Club, a nonprofit spouses group from Yokosuka's hospital, is planning a one-day fund-raising sale Saturday at Their Gym.

The sale will include items such as jewelry, antiques and a variety of Japanese goods and is planned for 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Proceeds are to support hospital activities.

Phone Marge Peff at DSN 241-3784 for information or to volunteer.

## Japan Day at Misawa

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — People are needed to help with this year's Japan Day, set for April 2 at Edgren High School. The annual event draws hundreds of Japanese artists, craftsmen, entertainers and cooks who put on demonstrations and cultural displays.

Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of tasks. Call 241 Lt. Jonathan Hanon at DSN 226-2545 for more information.

## Chess tourney help

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Yokota is seeking a professional U.S. Chess Federation-rated player to serve as a tournament director.

Yokota will host the annual base-wide chess tournament beginning at 9 a.m. April 2 in the Taiyo Recreation Center.

Submit applications to Bob McFall at [robert.mcfall@yokota.af.mil](mailto:robert.mcfall@yokota.af.mil)

From staff reports

## Chief's scholarship

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — The Misawa Chief Petty Officer's Association is accepting applications for the 2005 Alfred Leo Halpin IV Scholarship. All high school seniors are eligible for the \$1,000 award. Applications will be accepted through April 29 at Edgren High School's counselor's office.

Phone Chief Petty Officer Terry Kuhlman at DSN 226-5667/5673 for more details.



# General: U.S. troop level in Iraq to remain steady

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — U.S. troop levels in Iraq will remain steady at about 135,000 troops for "the next several months," according to the top U.S. military leader in Iraq.

Once the last of the units held over for Iraqi elections returns home at the end of March, "I don't necessarily anticipate [troop levels] changing much for the next several months," Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commanding general of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, told Pentagon reporters Tuesday.

"We're in a good position following the [January] election, but we have a lot of work ahead to get to our final objective in Iraq," Casey said.

"We're actually further along than I thought we'd be at this point," Casey said. "The level of violence, the level of attacks (against coalition forces), have dropped off significantly."

In fact, he said, "last week [marked] the lowest level (of attacks) since April."

However, Casey said he was "not ready to say" that the elections marked a "tipping point" that will spell a rapid end to the insurgency.

Despite progress in capturing many bombmakers and other foes of coalition forces and the new Iraqi government, "We are (still) dealing with an insurgency that has sufficient weapons, ammunition

and people to maintain attacks (at the level of) 50 or 60 per day in the Sunni area," Casey said. "We've seen that."

Even though attacks against U.S. forces have dropped, attacks continue against Iraqis, in particular the fledgling Iraqi security forces, which are losing members to suicide bombers and other insurgent weapons almost daily.

The insurgents are "clearly going after Iraqi security forces more, that's kind of a steady thing," Casey said.

The election gave the Iraqi people a much-needed psychological boost, Casey said, leaving Iraqi civilians less vulnerable to the demoralizing effect of daily bloodshed.

"For every one attack, two and a half are ineffective," Casey said. "So you get a lot of noise. Before the election, that noise really affected the people, because they had a perception of insecurity," he said. "After the election, [it's] not having the same effect."

But stabilizing Iraq is an effort that could take many more years, Casey said, although he did not specifically say that U.S. troops would be required for the duration.

"Defeating insurgency takes time," Casey said. "The average counterinsurgency in the 20th century took nine years."

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgessl@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgessl@stripes.osd.mil)



Peter Trovato is shown outside a practice hockey rink at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst last month, following a practice session with the school team. Trovato has established a charity to help children of soldiers killed in Iraq. He sometimes needs to make phone calls to trustees of the organization at a time that conflicts with practice, so calls on his cell phone from near the rink.

## Athlete establishes fund for kids who lost parent in war

BY MARK PRATT  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Peter Trovato keeps the list of names above the computer in his Amherst apartment.

Ashley, Marcus, Matthew, Katie — and more than a dozen others — are a reminder of why he spends so much effort helping people he doesn't know, and in many cases has never met, while balancing a demanding academic schedule and the commitment of being a Division I college hockey player.

Trovato is the founder of the Massachusetts Soldiers' Legacy Fund, a charitable endowment that aims to provide college scholarship money to the children of Bay State military personnel who have died in Iraq or Afghanistan. The money is in addition to any educational benefits they already get from the state and federal governments.

At least 30 Massachusetts residents have died so far in the war on terror, leaving behind more than 200 children, from infants to teens, whose names he sees each day.

"When I get tired, I just look up there at the list and it keeps me going," said Trovato, a senior at the University of Massachusetts.

Each name is a reminder of a family torn apart, of another child who will never see a parent again, and in at least one case, a child who will never even meet his father.

Trovato is one of five finalists for the Hockey Humanitarian

Award, presented annually by a private foundation to "college hockey's finest citizen." Any collegiate hockey player in any NCAA division is eligible for the award, which will be presented April 8 during the men's Frozen Four in Columbus, Ohio.

Trovato got the idea for the fund last summer while working at a legislative intern for state Rep. Michael F. Rush, D-Boston. One of his jobs was to keep the lawmaker abreast of the news. "I kept reading about these Massachusetts soldiers who had given their lives in either Iraq or Afghanistan, leaving behind wives and children, and I was like 'What can I do?'" Trovato said.

Trovato had a full plate before starting the soldiers fund. He has a 3.6 grade-point average with a double-major in political science and journalism in the university's Commonwealth College honors program. Playing hockey at the Division I level also means three-hour practices during the season and long road trips that this season have taken Trovato from Anchorage, Alaska to Orono, Maine.

He also tutors at-risk high school students, as well as his own teammates; he volunteers at a Northampton homeless shelter with other members of the team; and he is a Big Brother.

And he has a sense of humor. He has a girlfriend and a dog who deserve his attention as well.

"It's a tough balancing act, I'm not going to lie," he said.

## AF seeks volunteers for Iraq duty

BY LISA BURGESS  
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Air Force is seeking volunteers willing to spend a full year in Iraq to fill about 200 joint U.S. military jobs, most of them in Baghdad.

Although one-year tours are the norm for the Army, the positions are the first one-year rotations the Air Force has undertaken in Iraq.

Most Air Force deployments, which are managed under the service's Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) cycles, are four months long — although some airmen with special skills that are in high demand, such as military police, can be deployed for six months.

U.S. Central Command officials asked the Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper to extend some of its Iraq tours in order to provide "increased stability and continuity of operations" in certain positions, according to Saturday's Air Force message about the extensions.

The jobs are a mix of enlisted and officer billets. Many of the positions are intelligence analysts, according to an Air Force list of openings, although transportation, personnel, budget and other support specialists are also in demand.

Air Force officials will first ask airmen who are currently filling the billets as part of their four-month AEF rotation if they would be willing to spend an addi-

tional eight months in Iraq, according to Air Force spokeswoman Jennifer Stephens.

But "we're not going to make them stay," Stephens said in a Tuesday telephone interview. Instead, the Air Force is seeking volunteers for the jobs, followed by an involuntary selection to fill remaining slots, Stephens said.

Both volunteer and nonvolunteer replacements for the airmen now posted in Baghdad will start their new jobs in July and August, Stephens said.

For more information on the Iraq one-year tours, contact your Air Force Personnel Flight, or go to [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/procedures/ExtendedTVEsExtendedTVEs.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/procedures/ExtendedTVEsExtendedTVEs.htm). E-mail Lisa Burgess at: [burgessl@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgessl@stripes.osd.mil)

### Investigation into Italian's death

BAGHDAD — The U.S.-led coalition in Iraq ordered a follow-up investigation Tuesday into the fatal shooting of an Italian intelligence officer as he accompanied a former hostage to Baghdad's airport last week.

Also, Bulgaria demanded a U.S. investigation after one of its 460 soldiers in Iraq was killed Friday in what appeared to be a friendly-fire incident.

Italian intelligence officer Nicola Calipari was killed Friday when U.S. troops at a checkpoint fired at the car carrying him and freed Italian journalist Giuliana Sgrena to the airport after Sgrena's re-

lease from a month in captivity.

### U.S. may abandon Abu Ghraib site

BAGHDAD — Incessant attacks against Baghdad's notorious Abu Ghraib prison may force the U.S. military to return the facility to Iraq's government and take their own high-security inmates to a safer place, a U.S. military official said.

However, U.S. military figures show that a crack-down against insurgent attacks before and after the Jan. 30 landmark parliamentary election has blasted Iraq's prison system to the breaking point.

From The Associated Press

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# Kabul Golf Club proves to be revival in rough

BY N.C. AIZENMAN

The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — Never mind that the fairway was just a muddy hillside.

Or that the green was a patch of sand smoothed with black motor oil.

Mohammed Hashem prepared to tee off with all the concentra-

## Afghans learn game on golf course beaten by war

tion of his new hero, Tiger Woods.

"Check the condition of the ground first," warned his instructor, Mohammed Abdul.

It's an essential precaution on the rock-strewn links of the Kabul Golf Club, which reopened on the

outskirts of Afghanistan's capital last spring after more than two decades of war and neglect.

Like the rest of the country, the government-owned course is something of a work in progress. Landscapers have dragged away most of the weapons and shrap-

nel that littered the grounds, though a rusted Russian tank still stands sentry atop one of several hills ringing the course. A large metal shipping container has been brought in to replace the old clubhouse, now a bombed-out shell.

Abdul, the club's director in addition to his pro, also has built a water hazard. Someday soon, he hopes to fill it with water.

The rough, at least, is world-class.

Despite the challenges posed by the nine-hole course, about 100 diplomats, aid workers and other foreigners paid a small fee to golf here last year. With the club's second season about to begin, Abdul, a slim, athletic-looking man in his forties, is keen to attract a larger crowd.

"If I could get funds from the Americans or maybe the British, I could put a fence all around the course to keep the foreigners safe," he said. "Then we will need a well, so we can grow grass, and plumbing so we can build a new clubhouse."

Still, he said, his priority was the roughly 50 Afghan students he has been teaching free all winter.

"I know they have a bright future in golf. And that makes me feel very happy," Abdul said.

His students, mostly college-age men, wear sneakers and green caddy vests pulled over the long tunics and billowing trousers traditionally worn by Afghans. They said they like golf be-

cause it allows them to exercise and unwind at the same time. But their thirst for leisure sometimes has deeper roots.

The students also can earn about \$3 a game caddyfing for foreigners.

But Hashem, 19, harbors grander ambitions, fueled in part by glossy golf magazines, filled with photos of Woods, that foreign players have shown him.

"I want to become a champion like him, so I can make Afghanistan famous," Hashem said. Last November he got off to a promising start, winning third place in the club's first tournament in nearly 30 years.

The Kabul course had been turned into a battlefield by a succession of warring militia factions, culminating with the extremist Taliban militia.

Then, in 2001, the Taliban was defeated by U.S.-led forces. Several Afghans persuaded the new government to allow the club's reopening and have leased the grounds for 20 years, although so far they appear to have invested relatively little. A U.N. employee donated several sets of clubs, and a de-mining agency agreed to clear the course for old land mines.

If there was any hope of recapturing the club's glory days, however, Abdul was needed. Fortunately, he had just moved back to Kabul.

The \$80 per month he was offered as director of the golf club was less than what he was making as a taxi driver.

"But I felt it was my duty to accept," Abdul said.

## The New Sanno UPCOMING EVENTS

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## Yokota Baptist Church

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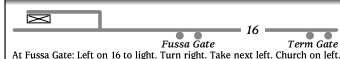
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Morning Service	1100	Ladies Meeting	1st Sat
Evening Service	1800		
<b>Monday</b>		Sunday, March 6, 2005	
Faith Bible Institute	1830	YCA Sing	
<b>Tuesday</b>		Morning Service	
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830	Sunday, March 12, 2005	
<b>Wednesday</b>		Revival Cottage Prayer Meeting	
Evening Service & Prayer Mig	1900	6-7 p.m.	
Patch & Pee Wee Clubs	1900	Revival 3-10 April	

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## IN THE WORLD

## Tokyo marks 60th anniversary of deadly air raid

BY JOSEPH COLEMAN  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — For decades, Teruo Kanoh never revealed the terror locked in his heart the night in 1945 when American bombers turned Tokyo into a raging fireball. Then, three years ago, he slowly began releasing his demons in oil and watercolor.

In his vivid, unsparring paintings, U.S. warplanes shower the sky with rivulets of fire, and thousands of corpses — many of them women and children — clot Tokyo's main river. In one piece, flaming bridges plummet in agony from a burning bridge.

The paintings are a gripping testament to

the destruction as Japan prepares to mark the 60th anniversary this week of the March 9-10, 1945, air raid that killed an estimated 100,000 people in a single night of fire.

The Tokyo firebombing has long been overshadowed by the U.S. atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which preceded the Japanese surrender that ended World War II the following August.

But the burning of the city, which resulted in more immediate deaths than either of the nuclear bombings, stands as a horrifying landmark in the history of warfare on noncombatants.

More than 300 B-29 "Superfortress" bombers dropped nearly a half-million

M-69 incendiary cylinders over Tokyo that night and early morning, annihilating some 16 square miles of the city.

The official death toll was some 83,000, but historians generally agree that victims unaccounted for bring the figure to around 100,000. It is widely considered to be the most devastating air raid in history.

While critics in Japan and elsewhere decry such attacks as war crimes, others say the Tokyo assault took place against a backdrop of the increasing brutality of total war fueled by the militarism of the Axis powers.

The German air attack on Guernica in the Spanish Civil War and the Japanese bombing of Chungking, China, in the 1930s

are cited as early examples of indiscriminate urban air raids — a trend that greatly expanded in World War II.

Kanoh survived by sheltering on a stone stairway from the park to the river. After the war, he was raised by relatives and worked as a painter of advertisements. Then, in 2002, he saw an ad asking for depictions of the war. For the first time, he started exploring his memories on the canvas.

The paintings are on exhibit in Tokyo as part of the several commemorations. The museum has expanded its timeline display to include Tokyo's 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and examples of Japanese pro-war propaganda to show Japan's role in starting the fighting, said Haruyo Nihei, a 68-year-old survivor and museum researcher.



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# World marks International Women's Day



**Alleged Filipino comfort women shout slogans while picketing in front of the Japanese embassy in suburban Manila to mark the celebration of International Women's Day on Tuesday. The comfort women have long been demanding public apology and compensation from Japan for alleged injustices done by Japanese soldiers during their occupation of the Philippines in World War II.**

## Leaders: There is no going back on revolution that began 30 years ago

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Leaders of the fight for women's equality say there is no going back on the revolution that began 30 years ago, though the challenges ahead are immense.

The comments came at a U.N. meeting to evaluate the world's progress toward gender equality. Now in its second and final week, the gathering has drawn delegates from 130 countries and 6,000 representatives from women's and human rights organizations.

Commemorating Tuesday's International Women's Day, Rachel Mayanja, the secretary-general's top adviser on women, warned that "the task ahead is not going to be any less difficult than it has been during the past decades."

She stressed that world leaders cannot view poverty, armed conflict and violence in isolation.

"The eradication of poverty and disease is as important as dealing with the criminal

networks that traffic in women and children," she said.

Nafis Sadik, a special adviser on AIDS to Secretary-General Kofi Annan and former head of the U.N. Population Fund, said governments spend more than \$900 billion on the military while the world's richest countries spend less than \$70 billion on development assistance — and only about \$3 billion that amount goes to gender equality.

"What contributes more to security, \$3 billion invested in women or the \$900 billion squandered on weapons?" Sadik said to loud applause. "It is time for political leaders to stop talking about peace and really start investing in it."

At a commemoration held Friday before most of the ministers and VIPs left, two Nobel Peace Prize winners and the heads of the four U.N. conferences on women since 1975 spoke of progress and challenges ahead. The four conferences built the global women's movement.

Former U.N. assistant secretary-general Angela King, who was Annan's top adviser on women and organized the 2000 U.N. con-

ference that reviewed Beijing, said the challenges of five years ago are the challenges of today.

She said an increasing number of women live in poverty, lag behind in economic advancement, are hurt by globalization, are contracting HIV/AIDS in greater numbers and are increasingly subject to violence in armed conflicts and through trafficking, she said.

King noted there are only four women prime ministers of independent countries and few women are at peace tables, citing them as the difficulty in changing stereotypes of women's limited roles.

"In 1975, the Mexico conference ignited a spark of awareness among women of their shared hopes and common problems," King said.

"With each successive conference, the spark grew."

"Let us pledge today as the United Nations community, as governments, regions and individuals, that the flame for women's freedom and equality become a shining beacon for action to fully realize gender equality, development and peace."

## Love Stars and Stripes' Photo of the Day feature?



## Nagasaki told to pay for funeral

TOKYO — A Japanese court ordered a city government to pay for the funeral of a South Korean man who survived the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, a ruling that could help other atomic bomb victims abroad get compensation.

Choi Kye-chul returned to Pusan, South Korea, after the Aug. 9, 1945, bombing.

When he died last July, his wife asked Nagasaki city to help pay for the funeral, but her request was denied because her husband was not in Japan at the time of his death.

## Infection may have killed King Tut

CAIRO, Egypt — The results of a CT scan done on King Tut's mummy indicate the boy king was not murdered, but may have suffered a badly broken leg shortly before his death at age 19 — a wound that could have become infected, Egypt's top archaeologist said Tuesday.

Zahi Hawass, secretary-general of the Supreme Council of Antiquities, announced the results of the CT scan about two months after it was performed on Tut's mummy.

## Siblings found living with dead parent

TOKYO — Police on Tuesday questioned three siblings after it was discovered they had been living with the decomposed corpse of their father for nearly a decade, an official said.

Police found the body of Kyujiro Kanaoka lying on a futon bed.

Kanaoka's three elderly children, all in their 70s or older, told police they thought their father was still alive but that one of them recently had consulted a relative about the possibility he might be dead.

Police were investigating the cause of Kanaoka's death. Judging from the condition of his decomposed body, Kanaoka may have died as long as 10 years ago, the spokesman said.

From The Associated Press

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## FBI bullet analyses wrong, court says

WASHINGTON — An FBI crime lab technique used for decades to match bullets to crimes — and relied on by prosecutors in hundreds of criminal trials — is based on “erroneous scientific foundations,” a New Jersey appeals court has ruled.

In a decision Monday overturning a 1997 murder conviction, the court said Michael S. Behn deserves a new trial because expert testimony based on the FBI technique was central to his conviction.

The ruling is believed to be the first to overturn a conviction based on a challenge to the FBI analysis of the lead content of bullets since the National Academy of Sciences last year raised new questions about the technique.

## Nebraska opens infectious-disease unit

OMAHA, Neb. — The nation's largest medical unit for victims of highly lethal infectious diseases such as smallpox, anthrax and the plague opened in Nebraska on Monday.

The Nebraska Medical Center's 10-bed containment wing has a separate ventilation system, alarms to indicate escaping air, a sterilizer for items leaving the wing and a shower for its volunteer staff to make sure contagious diseases are kept inside.

## Report: Terror suspects allowed to buy guns

WASHINGTON — More than 40 terror suspects on federal watch lists were allowed to buy firearms in the United States last year because background checks found no reason to stop them, says a government report released Tuesday.

The GAO recommended that the attorney general clarify procedures to ensure that information from gun purchase background checks is shared with counterterrorism officials and that the FBI should either monitor such checks more frequently or oversee all checks related to terror suspects.

## Bush asks Texas to review death row inmates

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is asking Texas to conduct new hearings for 51 Mexicans on death row who say they were denied legal help from their consulates in violation of international law.

The International Court of Justice in The Hague last year ruled that the convictions violated the 1963 Vienna Convention by not providing the Mexicans with consular access. In 1969, the Senate ratified the treaty, which requires such access for Americans detained abroad and foreigners arrested in the United States.

### From wire reports

# Bill Clinton to have surgery

BY KAREN MATTHEWS

*The Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Former President Clinton will undergo a medical procedure this week to remove an unusual buildup of fluid and scar tissue from his chest, six months after he underwent quadruple bypass surgery, his office said Tuesday. "I feel fine," Clinton said in Washington.

The low-risk procedure will take place Thursday at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center.

Clinton will remain hospitalized for three to 10 days and is ex-

pected to make a "full functional recovery," doctors said.

Clinton, who planned to play a golf tournament in Florida on Wednesday with former President George H.W. Bush for tsunami relief, said doctors discovered the condition during a recent X-ray. He called the surgery a "routine sort of deal."

"I feel fine," Clinton told reporters following a visit to the Oval Office with the former president. "And we're going to go play golf tomorrow."

The procedure, known as a decortication, will remove scar tissue that has developed as a result

of fluid buildup and inflammation, causing compression and collapse of the lower lobe of the left lung, doctors said. The surgery will be done either through a small incision or with a video-assisted thoracoscope inserted between ribs.

Clinton's problem is a relatively rare complication of his surgery, where inflammation of the lining of the heart develops and fluid builds around it or in the lungs, said Dr. John LaRosa, president of the State University of New York Health Science Center in Brooklyn. It doesn't signal anything ominous about the former president's outlook, he said.

## Bush: 'Freedom will prevail in Lebanon'

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Bush hailed fresh signs of democracy in the Middle East on Tuesday, saying authoritarian rule is "the last gasp of a discredited past" and demanding that Syria withdraw from Lebanon.

"Freedom will prevail in Lebanon," Bush declared, rejecting the message from a demonstration in Beirut by nearly 500,000 pro-Syrian protesters who chanted anti-American slogans. Bush instead took sides with anti-Syrian demonstrators of recent days who have demanded that Damascus remove its 14,000 troops from Lebanon.

"All the world is witnessing your great movement of conscience," Bush told the people of Lebanon.

"The American people are on your side. Millions across the Earth are on your side."

Bush spoke at the National Defense University, a center for professional military education.

The speech was described as an update on the war on terrorism, a struggle that he linked with repressive conditions in the Middle East that he said give rise to extremism.

"The advance of hope in the Middle East requires new thinking in the region," the president said. "By now it should be clear that authoritarian rule is not the wave of the future. It is the last gasp of a discredited past."

Bush said the entire world has "an urgent interest in the progress and hope and freedom in the broader Middle East."

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March 17  
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### Eddie Cotton Performance

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March 17  
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March 19 from 1900 at the Cove Bar  
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March 15 from 1100 to 1500 and 1700 to 2100  
Take your friends to lunch and dinner and everyone receives a free iced tea with any regular lunch and dinner menu selection.

### St. Patrick's Day Special

March 17  
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March 18 from 1700 to 2100  
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## Officers' Club 243-5002

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# U.N. nominee to face tough hearings

By Liz Sidoti

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's pick of a vocal U.N. critic to be the next U.S. ambassador to the world body was meant to send a message that change is needed there, the White House said Tuesday.

Now undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, John R. Bolton was announced Monday as Bush's choice for the post. He is likely to face a tough Senate confirmation hearing before Democrats who argue that he has dissatisfied the world body and Republicans who are wary of him.

But White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Bolton is the right man for the job at a time when the Bush administration is looking for reforms at the U.N.

"The president believes that there is more that needs to be done to make sure that it is an organization that is effective and an organization that is fulfilling its mandate," he said. "There are some areas where it can do much better."

Atop that list, McClellan said, is making

sure "that when resolutions are passed, that the Security Council means what it says."

"John Bolton is someone who is dedicated to positive reforms at the United Nations," McClellan said. "He is a tough-minded diplomat, someone who is committed to achieving results."

Almost immediately after Bolton's nomination was announced, Democrats objected. Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, senior Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, said Bolton's "stated attitude toward the United Nations gives me great pause."

The Republican chairman of the committee, Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, told reporters: "I'm going to reserve any comments about the appropriateness or not of the president's choice."

Confirmation hearings are expected next month.



Bolton

The appointment comes at a crucial time: U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan is going forward with plans to reform the world body, and U.S. opinion of the United Nations, particularly in Congress, is at a low.

In 2001, 43 Democratic senators opposed Bolton's nomination for his current post. He was confirmed anyway.

During his tenure, Bolton has ruffled lawmakers with his tough foreign policy talk. However, on Monday, he promised to work closely with Congress to advance Bush's policies. "Working closely with others is essential to ensure a safer world," he added.

If confirmed, Bolton, 56, would succeed former Sen. John Danforth.

Known for a hard-edged approach, Bolton's previous comments about troublesome foreign issues and regimes have been far from diplomatic.

Two years ago, he denounced North Korean leader Kim Jong Il as a "tyrannical dictator." Furious, a North Korean spokesman said that "such human scum and bloodsucker" would be closed out of negotiations over the country's nuclear weapons program.

## Concert for old stone

MADISON, Wis. — The University of Wisconsin-Madison is throwing a rock concert to celebrate the world's oldest stone.

A piece of zirconium silicate some 4.4 billion years old and no bigger than a grain of sand will appear on stage next month with the New York Band Jazz Passengers, who will use rocks as percussion instruments and recordings of rock strikes on a synthesizer keyboard.

Joe Skulan, director of the UW-Madison Geology Museum, said the event is meant not just to teach people more about the stone on loan from Australian researchers, but to grove to the idea that the stone is so old.

## 'Seabiscuit' horse dies

LEXINGTON, Ky. — I Two Step Too, one of 10 horses that portrayed Seabiscuit in the 2003 movie about the famed thoroughbred, died Monday at the Kentucky Horse Park. He was 11.

I Two Step Too was euthanized because of a tumor in his nasal cavity, according to a release from the Horse Park. He had undergone surgery in December to remove the tumor, but it regenerated itself.

From The Associated Press

# Wife: Man tried to 'reason' with chimps

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A man who was severely mauled by two chimpanzees at an animal sanctuary last week was quickly overwhelmed when the apes attacked, his wife said Monday.

"One was at his head, one was at his foot. But all that time ... he was trying to reason with them," a sobbing LaDonna Davis told ABC's "Good Morning America." "I couldn't do anything."

Davis, 64, and her husband, St. James Davis, were visiting Ani-

mal Haven Ranch near Bakersfield on Thursday when two male chimps escaped their enclosure and attacked the couple.

"When we made eye contact, the charge was on," LaDonna Davis said. "There was no stopping anything, and the big chimp came around from behind me and pushed me into my husband. The male came around from behind and chomped off my thumb. My husband must have realized we were in deep trouble because he pushed me backward. At that time, they both went for him."

St. James Davis, 62, lost all the fingers from both hands, an eye, part of his nose, cheek, lips and part of his buttocks in the ferocious attack, his wife said over the weekend on NBC's "Today Show." She also said one of his feet was mutilated. A Kern County Sheriff's commander also said his genitals were mauled.

St. James Davis was being treated at Loma Linda University Medical Center, where doctors said his condition was "minute by minute," his wife said Monday.

"Right now what they are try-

ing to do is keep his breathing constant," she said. "That's all they can tell me, but I told him that he can't leave me. He has to be strong."

The Davises were visiting the sanctuary to celebrate the birthday of Moe — a 39-year-old chimpanzee who was taken from their home in West Covina, a Los Angeles suburb, after biting off part of a woman's finger in 1999.

Authorities were continuing to investigate how the two chimps, named Ollie and Buddy, got loose.

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## FACES

# Lisa Simpson's voice gives us 'More'

BY LYNNE HEFFLEY  
Los Angeles Times

**B**y most measures, Yeardley Smith is a success: an Emmy Award, a reported \$5.5 million salary, a place in entertainment history as one of TV's longest-running sitcom.

Dressed in jeans, T-shirt and blue cardigan, Smith easily blends in with other mall denizens. But what's in that paper bag she's tot-

Smith steps out alter-ego's shadow with one-woman show

ing? "I washed my purse last night, and it was still damp this morning," she offers.

Ah, earnest and obscure. An explanation worthy of Smith's animated alter ego: brainy, soulful and quirky Lisa, whom she voices on "The Simpsons."

"That's life for an invisible celebrity."

"It's one of the greatest jobs in

the universe," she says. "And I feel deeply connected to Lisa. I'm so proud of her."

And yet, the anonymity Smith experiences as the voice of a cartoon character, while comfortable, is peculiarly challenging for someone who would "never, ever take the liberty of resting on my laurels in any way, shape or form."

So much so, that she is stepping out of her comfort zone with an in-

tensely personal one-woman show. Called "More," it is a serio-comic chronicle of what has been a lifetime quest for enough fame, enough love — and enough food — to assuage Smith's "sucking vortex of need" to succeed.

Directed by Tony Award-winning actor Judith Ivey, "More" ran off-Broadway last year; a revised version of the show opened Feb. 18 for a three-week run at the

Falcon Theatre in Burbank, Calif.

"It was important that it be funny, but I had to dig deep to do it well," Smith says. "It's the hardest work I've ever done."

Among the intimacies she shares within a framework of whimsy and salty humor is her secret battle with bulimia.

"More" isn't about "chest-pounding," Ivey insists. "It's whimsical and wacky with a universality to it, whether you're bulimic or not, whether you're an actor or not."

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## CCB has a history

New badge. All for it!

This whole idea was copied from the Germans in World War II. They awarded it to infantrymen and all combat/combat support military occupational specialties that we have today: artillery, engineers and the like.

The new name is even a direct translation of the German award, called then the *Nahkampfabzeichen*, which translates directly to "Close Combat Badge."

Respect to all the truck drivers who seem to get a lot of special attention during convoy duty by insurgents, but sorry, you shouldn't get it. Like my dad said in the Korean War, "Our trucks carry bullets, but they don't get CIBs."

As Veterans' we should get it (as in World War II) a "combat aviator" designation," as well. Back then, it was a piece of aviation blue wool sewn on the dress tunic, and your wings were pinned over it. It showed everyone that you were flying combat missions. The Air Medal is normally the aviators' "I was there" medal. I fly the Air Medal with "V" device for flying direct combat missions. However, I watched an awards ceremony and saw an overweight specialist who also got an Air Medal for riding in the back seat of an OH-58 to pick up a gear box in Saudi Arabia. Fair No.

This is my point. Combat arms soldiers, and otherwise unrecognized troopers (cavalry scouts, etc.), and, on a case-by-case basis civil affairs guys, if they are attached to a fighting element that does not get the combat Infantryman Badge should get the new badge. "Nuff said."

Chief Warrant Officer Jim Calhoun  
Schweinfurt, Germany

## Craving 'chest candy' crummy

I'm an infantry soldier and I've read a bunch of letters in the past few weeks about the new Close Combat Badge.

It proves that if you whine about some-

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, tone, and clarity.

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thing long enough, someone up top will bend to your wishes. Next thing you know we'll have a combat aviator badge, a combat cook badge, a combat combat badge, a combat legal badge, a combat military police badge, a combat air traffic controller badge, a combat mortuary affairs badge and a combat military intelligence badge.

I don't know one person in my military occupational specialty who joined the Army to get badges. If all you people want is chest candy, then get out and join the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

How many of you people have performed a combat task in combat? I doubt it. I deserve the Combat Medical Badge. Absolutely not. But according to logic coming from all the people who want a new badge, I deserve it. I probably just started something new, now everyone will want CMBs, too.

To the people who think a new badge is an

incentive for retention: Come on. I don't want a soldier to re-enlist because he got a new cool-guy badge. I want a soldier to re-enlist because it's right for him and he feels he can benefit the Army. If you want a better soldier, fine. Just please keep them out of the infantry; we don't need them.

Bottom line: If you want a Combat Infantryman Badge, join the infantry or Special Forces. If you want a CMB, join the medical corps; if you want the CCB, join the comms. Just quit complaining; you're going to make the badges we have worthless and there are a lot more important things to express opinions about while in combat.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Brophy

Bagram, Afghanistan

## You can have his badge

In response to those who have written about the Close Combat Badge, I ask: Why did you deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan? Did you just deploy to earn a badge to sew on your uniform?

My father ran recon with Military Assistance Command Vietnam, which was recently declassified. For anyone who knows anything about MACV, I do not have to explain who they are and what they did in Vietnam or the surrounding area.

I have never heard my father complain about not receiving a badge or an award from his tour in Vietnam. All I heard my father say was that he was reserving to have survived Vietnam, reunite with his wife, raise three children, and to have served his country honorably.

Is a badge that important for you to have? If a Close Combat Badge is that important to you, you can come to Fort Hood, Texas, and I will gladly give you mine. I'll even pay for the sewing. I am most thankful to have extended my father's military service to the people of Iraq and to be alive, than to complain about who gets what award for whatever they did or did not do in a combat zone.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas J. Wurley

Camp New York, Kuwait

## Give Lebanon back to the Lebanese

The Miami Herald

When 34-year-old Bashar Assad became president of Syria in 2000 after the death of long-time dictator Hafez Assad, two schools of thought quickly emerged: The son was either the new Mafia don of Syria, or, as one story put it, he was "a modern young man who would like to bring his country into the Internet era and fight corruption."

From the evidence to date, the callow Assad chose to adopt his father's brass-knuckled style to become the Michael Corleone of the Middle East.

But if he still harbors even the smallest impulse of reform, now is his chance to prove it.

Last month's assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a foe of Syria, has aroused a tide of revulsion among

the people of Lebanon against Syria and its occupation of their country — whether or not Syria was responsible. Assad's tepid effort to move his 14,000 troops in Lebanon closer to the Syrian border and eventually out of the country is too little, too late.

There is no justification for this occupation of a neighboring country that has a right to be free of the oppressive foreign presence. As if to underline how unacceptable Syria's role in Lebanon has become, both France and the United States — how's that for an unlikely alliance? — have joined hands to urge "the immediate withdrawal of all Syrian military and intelligence forces from Lebanon."

Given the farcical political balance inside Lebanon — Hezbollah, a sworn enemy of Israel, is the largest party in Parliament — a precipitous Syrian pullout is not in anyone's interest. But a promise to leave by a time

certain in the near future would help to restore political balance in the region.

Change will not be easy. At the moment, Lebanon does not have the resources to extend its authority over its entire territory.

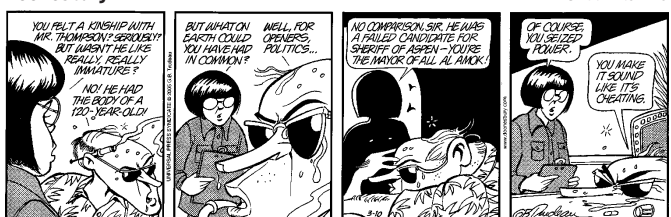
If the Syrian forces were to leave, Western countries — most prominently, France — would be prepared to provide security assistance to ensure stability until the Lebanese can do the job.

Assad must surely be aware that a new current is running through the Middle East. It's not only the Lebanese who are marching in the streets of Beirut by the thousands who reject terrorists and their sponsors.

It's not too late for Assad himself to change. Western countries can bring pressure to bear if he doesn't, or — should be reform — they can extend the sort of trade-and-aid benefits that typically are designed to ensure stability until the Lebanese can do as an offer he can't refuse.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

## Doodlesbury





## OPINION

## No longer business as usual in Arab world

The Chicago Tribune

Who on Earth would be known as the man of freedom? Not Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia, who last Thursday joined a chorus of leaders telling Syrian President Bashar Assad to end his nation's three-decade occupation of Lebanon.

Not Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who abruptly announced plans to hold the first free, multiparty election in his country's history.

Not Palestinian Mahmoud Abbas, whose path to Palestinian independence is now blocked less by Israel than by peace-averse militant groups such as Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

And certainly not the brave peoples of Afghanistan, of Georgia, of Ukraine, of Iraq, who have raised loud their voices for freedom, often at peril to their lives. Each day, tremors signal populist demands in lands where freedom has not thrived. This is, then, one of those explosive moments when history is written not in books, but screaming headlines.

Now it is Lebanon's turn, with citizens by the millions heralding a "cedar revolution." Is it possible that Iran, with its repressive and unpopular mullahs, could be next? And in sclerotic Syria, who today would buy Assad futures? That, of course, is the dilemma dictators face in these moments of tumult. When history lurches, where will it next land? For that matter, why does it lurch? Why is this happening now?

The prophet pro tem of the world's spreading freedom movement is Walid Jumblatt, the influential patriarch of Druze Muslims in Lebanon. He has long been a critic of the United States and Israel, but of late has been a thorn to the occupying Syrians.

Since he spoke to a Washington Post columnist on Feb. 23, his assessment — heresy to many listeners — has resonated around the globe: "It's strange for me to say it, but this process of change has started because of the American invasion of Iraq. I was cynical about Iraq. But when I saw the Iraqi people voting three weeks ago, 8 million of them, it was the start of a new Arab world. The Syrian people, the Egyptian people, all say that something is changing. The Berlin Wall has fallen. We can see it."

On the same evening Jumblatt spoke, a hiferto unthinkable headline — it, too, continues to ripple around the world — erupted on the Web site of the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel: "Could George W. Bush be right?"

Thought that radical thought, writer Claus Christian Malmgren likened Bush's then pending visit to Germany to President Ronald Reagan standing before the Brandenburg Gate in 1987: "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall."

In January, setting the tone of his second term, Bush had told reporters: "I believe democracy can take hold in parts of the world that have been democracies to tyranny. And I believe when democracies take hold, it leads to peace."

The response in Der Spiegel: "Bush's idea of a Middle Eastern democracy imported at the tip of a bayonet is, for (German liberals), the hysterical offspring of the American neo-cons. Even German conservatives find the idea that Arabic countries could transform themselves into enlightened democracies somewhat absurd. Europeans today — just like the Europeans of 1987 — cannot imagine that the world might change... We Europeans always want to have the world from yesterday, whereas the Americans strive for the world of tomorrow."



In a follow-up article, Der Spiegel asked, "How quickly can the virus of democracy spread?"

That is the question for other despots as they contemplate the likely fate of Saddam Hussein. They're trapped in their own spider holes. No longer can they survive solely by stoking public hatred of the Great Satan. As citizens who witness democracy in neighboring Iraq and upheaval in Lebanon ask, "Why not us?" the enemy of the tyrant becomes not so much the United States, but the aspirations of his own people.

No movement has only one catalyst: Pales-

tinians, for example, needed to be free of Yasser Arafat before independence could emerge as an option. But Washington's muscular diplomacy unarguably is playing a crucial role throughout the Mideast. For one repressive regime after another, the sight of American soldiers at long last enforcing United Nations resolutions — and bestowing democracy on a subjugated people — surely must concentrate the mind.

History written in headlines can reverse course just as fast. We are a long way from knowing whether the still unfinished liberation of Iraq helps transform a troubled region. But for the foes of freedom, the Mideast must feel like a suddenly smaller place.

## Bush's designs on veterans benefits fail inspection

Weapons America needs to defend itself in the future will have to be slashed. Incentives for young people to join the volunteer military are in jeopardy even as U.S. forces are being strained in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Myriam Marquez

And it's all the fault of military veterans and even their widows. That's what David Chu, the Pentagon's undersecretary for personnel and readiness, says about increases in veterans benefits that Congress approved since 1999.

"The amounts have gotten to the point where they are hurtful. They are taking away from the nation's ability to defend itself," Chu told The Wall Street Journal recently.

Chu's remarks caused the Pentagon's shot heard around the biosphere. Vets aren't going down without a fight.

The Pentagon estimates increases in benefits, some approved by Congress during the Clinton administration, will cost \$100 billion in the next six years. But whose fault is that? Those benefits were promised long ago. Then the government tried to wiggle out of its obligation. After veterans groups, a powerful voting bloc, forced the issue, both Republicans and Democrats came to the rescue — despite the Bush administration's attempts to nickel-and-dime vets.

You don't take on the Greatest Generation without paying a political price. But President Bush, having won a second term to office with strong support from veterans, has nothing to lose. Forget veterans benefits —

Bush's priority remains tax cuts. He wants tax cuts that disproportionately help the richest Americans, reasoning they will create more jobs and strengthen the economy.

Except too many of those jobs are going to India, China and so forth. Not just grunt work, but technical jobs, too, that pay well.

Thomas H. Corey, national president of Vietnam Veterans of America, fired his own volley back at the Bush administration after it released the latest veterans budget proposal, which would require that certain veterans pay more for their health care. "The president is mistaken if he believes that 58 percent of veterans voted for the Bush-Cheney ticket last year to give his administration a mandate to cut funds for veterans," Corey said. "If he believes that veterans asked to restrict access to health care, he needs to reassess his position."

He, tell that to the Swift Boat boys who sought to besmirch Sen. John Kerry's military service during the presidential campaign.

Several veterans groups, including the Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, the Paralyzed Veterans of America and Veterans of Foreign Wars have put together their own budget proposal. They figure the Department of Veterans Affairs needs \$31.2 billion for medical care.

The administration is proposing \$27.8 billion — a less than one-half percent increase. Adjusted for inflation, Bush's plan amounts to a cut.

Bush wants to increase vets' medical-insurance enrollment to \$250 a year, raise prescription copayments and restrict certain care. This would drive 213,000 vets, many already on tight retirement budgets, away

from the VA medical system, the veterans groups estimate.

Long-term care would be gutted under the Bush plan, too, serving 27 percent fewer vets in 2006 than in 1998.

Pitting military retirees and vets against those who are serving today is a sideshow that hides the main event — the true reasons for the federal budget crunch. Exploding annual deficits have more to do with Bush's penchant for over-the-top tax cuts than long-overdue benefits for those who risked their lives to defend this country during two world wars, Korea, Vietnam, and all the other military operations to this day. Veterans' benefits don't deserve to be on the chopping block.

Myriam Marquez is an editorial page columnist for The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel.

## Mallard Fillmore



BY BRUCE TINSLEY



## Car theft capital

**MD** UPPER MARYLAND — Nearly half of all auto thefts in Maryland occur in Prince George's County, though the jurisdiction has only about 15 percent of the state's population, officials say.

State delegates from the county are seeking legislation to help solve the problem. One bill would require insurance companies to contribute a dollar for every car insured to a state fund devoted to combating vehicle theft.

## Riverside development

**AL** BIRMINGHAM — About 4.5 miles along the Cahaba River in suburban Birmingham will be kept in its natural state as part of 325 acres set aside for conservation by the developer of the upscale Liberty Park.

The area will be off-limits to future construction or tree clearing and will be maintained in a way that meets federal, state or city conservation policies, project manager Sam Lowery said.

## Working for a nonprofit

**MA** BOSTON — The state's nonprofit work force grew by 8.6 percent between 2000 and 2003, while overall employment fell by 4.1 percent, according to a research group. Its report found that nonprofit organizations employed 420,671 people, or 13 percent of the state's work force. That's nearly double the national average of 6.9 percent. Only North Dakota, Washington, D.C., and Vermont have higher percentages of workers in the nonprofit sector, according to the Massachusetts Institute for a New Commonwealth.

## Gimme the M.O.N.E.Y.

**GA** ATLANTA — Marlow Braswell, former University of Georgia cheerleading coach, still owes UGA more than \$300,000 for expenses she ran up in the three on-campus cheerleading camps she hosted last summer, officials say.

A university lawyer says Braswell could face legal action if she doesn't pay up soon. Braswell's husband said the couple disputes the amount UGA says she owes. The university cited food, housing and other services it provided for Braswell's private corporation.

## Dude, that's my shirt

**TX** GRAPEVINE — As Napoleon Dynamite would put it, a sweet deal has fallen into Randall Sowa's lap.

For four summers in the 1980s, Sowa hawked T-shirts with a helicopter image on them designed by a pal, Phil Goetti. Each summer there was a different design. And each summer Sowa sold a couple of hundred shirts to the rough-and-tumble guys who explored — with dynamite — for oil and natural gas in remote areas of the West.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Two decades later, the geeky, quirky, tetherball-loving Napoleon, tie hero of the wildly popular cult movie, showed up on-screen wearing these same shirts.

Since "Napoleon Dynamite" was released last spring, Sowa has sold several thousand of the helicopter tees online. Now the shirts will be sold in 600 Hot Topic stores in malls in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

The film, made in 2003 by the husband-and-wife team of Brigham Young University students Jared and Jerusha Hess, has grossed more than \$45 million in theaters alone and sold more than a million DVDs in about three months.

## Ice cream truck fatality

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — A 2-year-old boy was fatally injured when he ran into the path of an ice cream truck in the parking lot of his apartment complex, and the driver allegedly left the scene, authorities said.

Angela Rodriguez, 27, later turned herself in and was charged with leaving the scene of a fatality, which carries a possible 15-year prison sentence. She was jailed in



## 50F is just right

With the Washington Monument in the background, a pair of sailors maneuver their boat on the Potomac River in Washington as temperatures rose to about 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

lieu of \$100,000 bail.

Witnesses said the driver got out of her truck after the wreck and moved the boy, Moses Joseph, before driving away.

Moses died after his mother, Emmanuelle Richard, ran to him.

"That's all she has," said family friend John Chery, who had been on his way to pick up Moses to go to a park. "You just don't know how lovable this child was."

## Plateau drilling

**CO** GRAND JUNCTION — Mesa County commissioners backed a recommendation by federal officials for managing the Roan Plateau in western Colorado. The plan would allow limited drilling on the plateau, an area that environmentalists say is rich with wildlife and diverse ecosystems. Elected officials in at least five cities in neighboring Garfield County oppose the proposal.

## Price of prosecution

**AZ** PHOENIX — Maricopa County Attorney Andrew Thomas asked county supervisors for an additional \$6.3 million this year to shore up salaries for prosecutors. The office experienced 17 percent turnover last year. Thomas said that more than 70 percent of all county prosecutors have five years' experience or less.

## One seat, 3 candidates

**IA** DUBUQUE — Democrats are lining up to run in 2006 for Congress in eastern Iowa's 1st District. Rick Dickinson, an economic development official in Dubuque, announced his intentions over the weekend. The seat is held by Rep. Jim Nussle, a Republican who's widely expected to run for governor in 2006. Dickinson is the third Democrat to announce he will seek the seat.

## Avalanche kills man

**CO** ASPEN — A man taking an avalanche awareness class died after being trapped in a slide outside the boundaries of the Aspen Highlands ski area, sheriff's officials said.

The man died within a half-hour of being pulled alive from the avalanche, said Ann Stephenson of the Pitkin County sheriff's office.

His name, age and hometown were not released until his family could be notified. Officials were investigating the death.

The man was in a group of six people who were part of a class sponsored by the backcountry expedition company Aspen Expeditions, Stephenson said. A man answering the phone at Aspen Expeditions referred all questions to authorities.

It was not clear what triggered the avalanche.

Early estimates were that the avalanche slid 3,400 vertical feet, said mountain weather and avalanche forecaster Scott Toepfer of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center.



## World upside down

Mike Brumet goes "over the falls" while riding a huge wave during the first heat of the Mavericks Surf Competition in Half Moon Bay, Calif.



## It's a yawner

A 4-week-old bear cub yawns while its siblings rest after being weighed and measured during a den study in Cottonball, Ark. Black bears in Arkansas have been on the comeback trail for the past several decades. After the bears were wiped out in the 19th and early 20th centuries, biologists reintroduced 254 bears into the Arkansas wilderness during the 1960s. Now the state's black bear population is about 3,500.



## Alluring goods

Claire Ablett, center, her husband, Graham, and son, Tom, 11, far right, of Lincolnshire, England, look at Cartier watches while visiting upscale stores at the Mall at Millenia in Orlando, Fla. Orlando tourism officials have unveiled an \$8 million marketing campaign to lure tourists seeking luxury goods.





## On the march

the fall of the Alamo in San Antonio.

People portraying the Texan army march during the San Antonio Living History Association's "Dawn at the Alamo," a ceremony commemorating



## Circle of death

The husband and wife daredevil team of Don Daniels II and Sandra D. ride the Wall of Death together on their vintage Harley and Indian motorcycles at the Iron Horse Saloon in Ormond Beach, Fla., during Bike Week 2005.



## Long brush strokes

Clarence Lambert, with Expert Window Cleaning, Co., of Baton Rouge, La., uses a water brush system reaching more than 40 feet from the ground to wash outside windows along the crosswalk from the Argosy Atrium to the casino in downtown Baton Rouge.

## To reek or not to reek

**CA** SAN LUIS OBISPO — A new county law aims to keep readers from reeking.

Libraries in San Luis Obispo County have had their own rules banning offensive body odor since 1994, but the policy became law after the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance that lets authorities kick out malodorous guests.

The law can raise tough questions for librarians, said Irene Macias, Santa Barbara's library services manager.

"What is bad odor?" Macias asked. "A woman who wears a strong perfume? A person who had a garlicy meal?"

## 'PEZheads' unite

**WI** DE PERE — For most people, PEZ is just a candy, but Barry Umbs calls his addition to collecting PEZ dispensers "a bit of an illness."

Umbs, an engineering manager for Rockwell Automation in Milwaukee, joined some 60 other self-described "PEZheads" at a convention in De Pere.

The man has been a feverish PEZ dispenser collector for the past 15 years, and seeks not only each kind of dispenser, such as ones featuring Bugs Bunny, but the same kind from different countries, with different patent numbers and packaging.

The event, the second held by Bryan and Tammy Lewis of De Pere, offered PEZheads the chance to buy, sell and swap their dispensers, show off their collections, and share PEZ news.

## License to arrange roses

**LA** BATON ROUGE — In Louisiana, not just anyone can sell a bunch of pretty flowers. You have to have a license.

U.S. District Judge Frank Polozola ruled that the state can keep its unique law requiring florists to pass a test and get a license to work on their own. Would-be florists had argued that the law unconstitutionally bars them from entering the occupation.

About half of all applicants fail the test, which includes a written exam and one in which they must create four floral arrangements in as many hours. Unlicensed "floral clerks" can work only in a shop that also has a licensed florist. "There are few occupational licensing laws as crazy as this one in this country," said Clark Neily with the Institute for Justice, a libertarian nonprofit law firm in Washington, D.C.

Neily has argued that the question of who has floral talent should be left to the market: people whose arrangements are ugly would soon find themselves without customers.

## Student stabbed at party

**MA** AMHERST — A University of Massachusetts student was stabbed in the neck during a party on campus, school officials said.

UMass spokesman Ed Blaguszewski said the stabbing occurred around 12:30 a.m. on a Sunday at the Student Union Ballroom. The crowd of about 700 gathered after a fashion show earlier in the evening at the Student Union.

The stabbing occurred during a fight that was broken up by UMass police officers using pepper spray.

The student, who was not identified, was treated at Holyoke Hospital and released, Blaguszewski said. No suspects have been identified.

## Don't fish the state fish

**NE** LINCOLN — An animal rights group has a beef with the state fish.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is asking Gov. Dave Heineman to declare the channel catfish, Nebraska's state fish, off limits to fishing.

PETA launched a campaign last year to ban fishing, arguing that it is a cruel thing to do.

Heineman rejected the request. "Fishing is a time honored tradition in Nebraska, and I have no intention of modifying Nebraska's fishing guidelines," he said.

## Better than 'Survivor'

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — They value privacy, solitude and

perthousa living.

And yet expectant parents George and Gracie are now starring in their own reality show.

All it takes are two peregrine falcons, one Web camera and \$30,000 from a corporate giant.

"They're part of life here in downtown San Francisco," said Brian Swanson, a spokesman for that corporate giant, Pacific Gas and Electric Co.

The birds live on a 33rd-floor ledge of the utility's headquarters.

An Internet presence will substantially increase the raptors' voyeuristic fan club. The comings and goings of the falcons can be seen at [www.scpbrg.org](http://www.scpbrg.org).

## Destructive grass fires

**IA** CARSON — Grass fires driven by 45 mph wind swept across an area of southwestern Iowa, destroying four rural homes and blackening more than 4,000 acres.

The largest of the blazes was started by a house fire east of Carson, said Terry Hummel, the county's emergency management coordinator. It was not immediately clear if that house was one of the four that were destroyed.

The blazes jumped bare fields and ditches as wind gusts to 45 mph and temperatures rose to record highs in the '70s, spreading across about 12 miles in the county east of Omaha, Neb.

Two firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation.

## Tomato, tamahito

**NJ** TRENTON — The humble tomato may technically be a fruit, but lawmakers here consider it a vegetable.

Members of the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on Monday approved a measure designating the Jersey tomato as the official state vegetable.

A similar proposal is pending in a Senate committee.

Sponsors of the measure get around the fact that the tomato is considered a fruit by using a century-old U.S. Supreme Court ruling that slapped a vegetable tariff on tomatoes, similar to the tax placed on cucumbers, squashes and beans.

"Botanically it's a fruit, legally it's a vegetable," said Sen. Ellen Karcher, who is co-sponsoring the Senate version of the bill.

Stories and photos from wire services











# Scheming sister should be watched

**Dear Abby:** My mother died last year. My 93-year-old father now lives with my sister "Lila" in her apartment building. I have four brothers and another sister who reside in the same state.

I live in Arizona. Although I'd love for Dad to live here with me, he doesn't want to put such a great distance between himself and the rest of the family. Dad gets \$3,000 a month from Social Security. Since Lila doesn't work, she decides that she should be the one to take care of our father. All of us agreed that she should take Dad's Social Security check and use it for his care. Dad also has about \$400,000 put away that is to be split among his children when he passes away.

Recently, Lila took \$21,000 of our father's money, claiming it was a "gift" so she can purchase a co-op. (Dad would buy it; her name would be on the deed.) Someone, I'm not sure who, called Dad's lawyer and reported

the withdrawal. The lawyer met with Lila and my brother "Hersch," who has our father's power of attorney. The lawyer told Lila she can either pay back the \$21,000 or it'll be deducted from her inheritance. The lawyer then put Dad's money into a trust fund so it cannot be touched.

Now that she can't have the money as a gift, Lila is very angry and refuses to let anyone speak to Daddy on the phone.

Besides retaliating against us, it is also punishing Dad. Because I live across the country, the phone is my only means of communication with him. I'm at my wit's end.

Is there anything I can do?

— **Help! In Arizona**  
Dear Help! There sure is. Pick up the phone and discuss this with your siblings and your father's lawyer.

If your brothers and sisters do not live close enough to check regularly on Dad's welfare, it

may be necessary to hire a social worker or care manager, or move him to an assisted-living facility. Please don't wait.

**Dear Abby:** I am in seventh grade and I have a problem.

Everyone refers to me as "Roy's" little sister. Roy is good at sports and is popular. I am not — so no one remembers my name. I want to be called by my name, but my brother's friends always seem to forget it. I hang out with Roy a lot, and I don't want to be called that anymore — but I don't know how to say it. Any suggestions?

— **Invisible in Greenfield, Ind.**  
Dear Invisible: Ask your brother to help by reminding his friends that you have a name when they refer to you as his little sister. If it happens in front of you, speak up and say, "My name is ( )". It may take some time, but eventually they'll catch on.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the Internet at: <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby>  
Universal Press Syndicate

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**LAGE**

**PLMB**

**NEMDIP**

**DIMPIL**

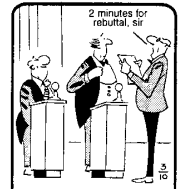
www.jumble.com

**Answer:** " " " "

Yesterday's Jumbles: RAVEN COVEY GULLET YEARLY  
Answer: What it took to sandbag the town against the rising river — A LEEVE LEVY

## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By Henri Arnold and Mike Angiron



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

# Steer clear of deceitful mom-in-law

**Dear Annie:** My sister-in-law, "Diane," recently started a small business, and my mother-in-law, "Annette," has been helping her.

They agreed to split the profits. Business was slow at first, and there were no profits after the bills were paid. Annette complained to everyone who would listen that she wasn't making any money.

One day, Annette confessed to me that if a customer pays in cash, she just pockets it. I was appalled, but my husband said to keep quiet. Six weeks later, Diane called me, frantic, because money and inventory were missing. She asked for my help, and I told her what I knew about Annette. Diane was horrified and furious.

Three weeks ago, when the books were off again, Diane confronted her mother, who then said all kinds of vicious things about me. In retaliation, I spilled the beans to Diane about the nasty things Annette had said about her — and there were plenty.

## Annie's Mailbox



Diane trusts me and knows I am telling the truth. Annette is taking her anger out on the grandchildren, and badmouthing my husband and me to whoever will listen.

My mother-in-law has a long history of lying and rotten behavior, but everyone writes it off as a personality disorder. I cannot fathom stealing from my own child and

am outraged by her subsequent hostility. Should I confront her?

— **And You Think**

**Your Mother-in-Law Is Bad?**

Dear ATTYMILIB: What are you hoping to accomplish? Annette sounds as if she isn't playing with a full deck, and unless she is willing to seek professional help to readjust her behavior, nothing will change.

You do not have to maintain contact if she is mean to your children, but please don't add fuel to the fire. Let your husband deal with his mother as he wishes, but you should steer clear.

**Dear Annie:** I am in my early 50s, and my boyfriend, "Wallace," is 10 years younger. We've been together for two years. Wallace seems to suffer from low self-esteem. Every time I compliment him, he has trouble accepting my words. Last night, I told him he had beautiful eyes, and he replied, "No, I don't."

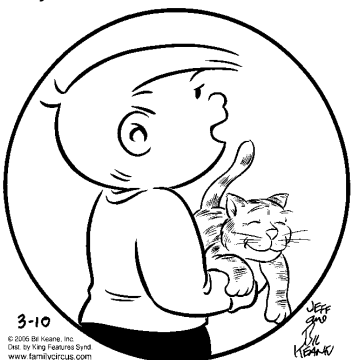
This happens every time I comment positively about him. I love him very much, and it frustrates me that he questions my sincerity.

— **New Jersey**

Dear N.J.: Wallace isn't questioning your sincerity. He simply doesn't know how to receive a compliment. So teach him. Next time you compliment him and he responds negatively, look him in the eye and say, "Wallace, I want you to say only the words 'thank you.' Try it." It might take some practice and many reminders, but this can work.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the *Los Angeles Courier*. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.  
Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



3-10

## GRAFFITI

THE WINNERS OF RATRACES ARE STILL RATS

M&L 3/10

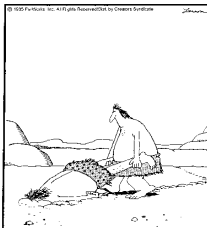
## Dennis the Menace



"I HAVE MY OWN ROOM, BUT MY MOM AND DAD HADTA SHARE ONE."

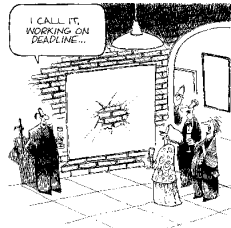
## © Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Borrow" — precursor to the game of "sublimation."

## Non Sequitur

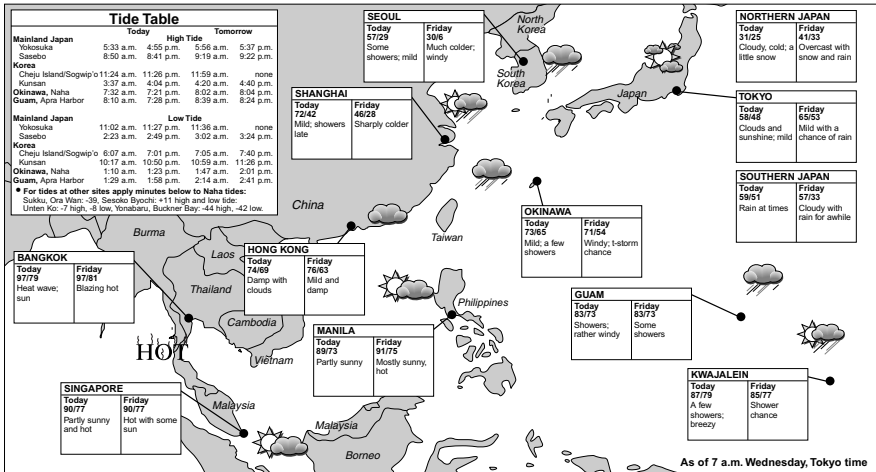


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## The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided  
by AccuWeather.com ©2005

## Extended Forecasts

**TOKYO**  
Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 54, low 32.  
Sunday: Partly sunny, high 42, low 29.

**KADENA**  
Saturday: Showers, high 60, low 50.  
Sunday: Partly sunny, high 56, low 48.

**SEoul**  
Saturday: Partly sunny, high 25, low 10.  
Sunday: Partly sunny, high 29, low 16.

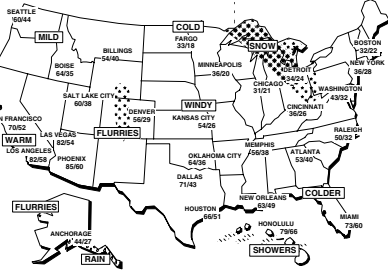
**MANILA**  
Saturday: Mostly sunny, high 91, low 75.  
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 73.

**HAGATNA**  
Saturday: Showers, high 85, low 73.  
Sunday: Showers, high 87, low 76.

## Tuesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	64/35	Los Angeles	74/56
Amarillo	64/33	Little Rock	54/38
Anchorage	42/33	Louisville	40/25
Ashville	41/23	Miami	80/54
Baltimore	49/19	Milwaukee	25/14
Birmingham	51/32	Nashville	43/28
Bismarck	31/16	New York	47/18
Boise	64/41	Omaha	43/20
Boston	46/17	Orlando	75/44
Brownsville	75/55	Philadelphia	50/18
Buffalo	18/8	Phoenix	80/58
Burlington	19/4	Pittsburgh	22/10
Charleston, SC	65/34	Portland, OR	72/48
Charlotte	57/28	Portland, ME	37/18
Cleveland	20/17	Salt Lake City	59/38
Columbus, OH	27/16	St. Louis	43/23
Duluth	18/-1	San Antonio	73/50
El Paso	70/42	San Diego	67/56
Hartford	42/16	San Juan	85/72
Helena	58/34	Tampa	71/46
Indianapolis	34/19	Tulsa	57/37
Jacksonville	71/36	Washington, DC	50/19
Kansas City	47/22	Wichita	57/34

## Thursday, March 10



## U.S. Extended Forecast

The extreme cold will become somewhat diluted on Thursday across the East as winds shift to the southwest. A series of weak storms will pass through the mid-Atlantic and Northeast through the period, leading to a few inches of snow across the mountains and in the Lee of the Great Lakes, but little more than a few flurries elsewhere. Conditions will be chilly across the Southeast, and conditions will become unsettled on Saturday as a cold front swings through, potentially leading to some strong thunderstorms across eastern Georgia. In the West, little change is expected through the period as high pressure remains in control.

## Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	97/79	Iskani	55/48
Beijing	46/16	Kadana	73/65
Camp Casey	57/30	Kusanan Ab	55/39
Christchurch	63/41	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	88/78	Manila	89/73
Hagatna	83/73	Misawa Ab	37/33
Hanoi	86/76	Osan	60/34
Hong Kong	74/69	Perth	60/58
Honolulu	79/66	Pusan	61/49

## Thursday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Buenos Aires	80/52	Kabul	30/21
Cairo	51/33	Kiev	25/17
Cancun	72/58	Kuwait	79/61
Barbados	61/45	London	48/37
Barcelona	52/41	Madrid	59/42
Berlin	31/19	Mexico City	75/50
Bermuda	59/53	Montreal	20/14
Brussels	43/31	Mogadishu	91/75
		Moscow	20/9
		Oslo	77/55
		Paris	36/32
		Perth	44/35
		Rio de Janeiro	84/71
		Rome	51/34
		St. Petersburg	16/5
		Stockholm	30/28
		Warsaw	24/17



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Miscellaneous 1040

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Foster, Okinawa - Asian boy & girl Cherish Teddies figurines for sale! \$5.00 each or 2 for \$8. Call 6646-4374 or e-mail [sullygem@yahoo.com](mailto:sullygem@yahoo.com) for pictures.

Foster, Okinawa - Purse for sale! Big black leather purse sells for \$15.00 & Disney's

Kadena - 100 VHS tapes mixed, some old Westerns \$100. Two Chafing stainless dishes keep food warm for parties \$25.00

Kadena, Okinawa - For sale pink power wheel barely rode on age 2-6 \$80 and also a boy power wheel kasawasi for motorcycle for sale \$100 call me 809-234-4264

Kadena, Okinawa - I have 2 very large outdoor plants for sale. They are both in pots. They have weathered many of Okinawa's best storms and are no worse for it. We are asking \$20 for each. Call 633-1513.

**Kadena, Okinawa - Luggage:** 4 Piece set of matching "Atlantic" luggage large, medium, and carry-on bag with wheels. One is over the shoulder bag (never used). \$175 OBO Call 633-1519

Kadena, Okinawa - TOOLS  
Delta 10-inch table saw/extra  
blade/ metal stand/ dust chute  
\$100. Dremel Contour Sander  
(Crafts, furniture, etc.) case and  
extra paper \$18.00. Unused.

Okinawa - Patio bar and 3 matching stools, grey and black. Very good condition. Great for a yard, or balcony asking \$65. Whirlpool Dehumidifier, great

Okinawa - Targus Laptop Backpack, very handy, ideal for trips. \$25 POC Miguel at idontknow@trifon.ocn.ne.jp

Osan - Experienced singer & drummer seek guitar, bass, keyboard players for rock & roll, pop, blues band. Have PA, practice space, gigs lined up. Call 010-4729-0739

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Yokota, Japan - 30-gallon fish

Bank with top filter, under-gravel filter system, live plants and accessories, \$50; entertainment center, like new, black, hold up to 32-inch TV, glass doors on sides, lots of storage space, \$75, chest freezer, small white, excellent condition, 6 months

Yokota, Japan - Girl's 16-inch bike with training wheels, \$10; various luggage, \$5 to \$20; 12v cordless drill, \$20; solid wood end table, \$10; two wooden folding chairs, \$25. Call [708-442-2222](tel:708-442-2222).

Yokota, Japan - Scanner/fax/copier includes manual, \$95; Silva Schneider Slim DVD/karaoke machine with remote, \$45 OBO; Sony Play station, \$35 OBO. Call 227-2270.

Yokota, Japan - Wireless PS2 controller pair, \$60; computer with 2.4 GHz/DVD/CDRW burner, \$500; 20-inch Panasonic TV, \$50; cordless drill, \$25; 5-piece table set, \$40; 3 VTECH 2.4 GHz cordless phones, \$130; Kenwood CD changer, \$90. Call

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# Giambi helps Yanks bop Sox

## Rivera, Atlanta's Hudson flawless in spring debuts

The Associated Press

Jason Giambi quieted the caustic Red Sox crowd with his first homer of spring training. Tim Hudson and Mariano Rivera silenced their opponents with their dominant pitches.

With fans chanting "Steroids! Steroids! Steroids!", Giambi hit a solo shot in the fifth inning of the New York Yankees' 9-2 victory over Boston at Fort Myers, Fla. The public face of baseball's steroids controversy was booed before each of his five at-bats — he finished 2-for-5 and is 3-for-12 this spring.

Giambi took it all in stride. He gave a mass interview, got a hug from Kevin Millar, took batting practice and signed autographs for 25 minutes.

Giambi, one of only a handful of Yankees regulars who made the 2-hour bus ride for the split-squad game, was prepared to face Red Sox Nation. Giambi said he tuned out the taunts.

"Tonight was a good night for him," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I'm sure he feels good about it. I know we were pleased because he didn't let the emotion of where we were and who we were playing against interfere with

what he was working on."

At Tampa Bay, Fla., Rivera skated in his first spring appearance for the Yankees, working one perfect inning in a 3-1 split-squad loss to the Cleveland Indians.

"He didn't even break a sweat," Torre said before heading to Fort Myers.

Rivera threw 10 pitches, seven for strikes, and retired the side on a grounder to short and two fly balls to right.

The right-hander changed his offseason program in hopes of rejuvenating himself after the Yankees' collapse against Boston in the American League Championship Series. He feels like he accomplished that objective.

"Mentally and physically I was tired," Rivera said, explaining the decision to change his routine. "I worked out, but I didn't throw. It's not normal for me. I just felt like I needed it, so I did."

Making his debut with the Braves, Hudson worked two scoreless innings in a 5-0 victory over the New York Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla. He threw 21 of 29 pitches for strikes and got four groundouts, showing off the sharp stuff that made him a huge winner with Oakland the past six years.

"It was good to finally get it out of the way," Hudson said. "I was just mainly trying to locate my

fastball, stay down in the zone."

The Braves sent three players to the Athletics in a trade for Hudson last December, and he agreed to a \$4.7 million, four-year contract extension last Tuesday.

Atlanta's new closer Dan Kolb followed with a perfect inning.

Kolb was acquired in an offseason trade with Milwaukee, allowing the Braves to shift John Smoltz back into the rotation.

"The first day is a little rough, the adrenaline," Kolb said. "Especially when you get traded and you're replacing pretty much a legend in Atlanta. I probably put a little too much pressure on myself."

In other games:

**Blue Jays 12, Indians (ss) 9:** At Winter Haven, Fla., C.C. Sabathia likely won't start the Indians' season opener after an MRI showed the left-hander strained a muscle in his right side. Sabathia has been told not to throw for a week.

Kevin Millwood, making his first start for Cleveland, gave up five runs and seven hits in one inning.

**Athletics 5, Diamondbacks (ss) 0:** At Phoenix, Rich Harden pitched three scoreless innings and struck out three for Oakland. Eric Byrnes hit a bases-loaded double off Russ Ortiz in the first.

**Cubs 9, Rangers 4:** At Jupiter, Fla., Greg Maddux gave



AP

Amid derisive chants, Jason Giambi (above) had a solo homer and two hits in the Yankees' 9-2 split-squad victory over the Red Sox on Monday.

up three hits and allowed two unearned runs in two innings in his spring debut.

Alfonso Soriano, who missed the final two weeks of 2004 with a torn left hamstring, was limping in the locker room after playing six innings and going 0-for-3 with two strikeouts.

**Cardinals 6, Dodgers 1:** At Jupiter, Fla., Albert Pujols hit two

home runs and a hard double for the Cardinals. In eight at-bats this spring, Pujols has three homers and two doubles.

**Dodgers (ss) 4, Marlins (ss) 2:** At Jupiter, Fla., Carlos Delgado was scratched from his debut with Florida because of tendinitis in the left elbow. Marlins right-hander Josh Beckett struck out seven over four scoreless innings.

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## SCOREBOARD

## AFN TV &amp; Radio

## Thursday

**AFN-Sports, 4 p.m.**—College basketball: Big East Conference Tournament, first round, Michigan vs. West Virginia at Madison Square Garden, New York.

**AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.**—College basketball: Conference USA Tournament, first round, Tennessee Tech. vs. Furman at the University Center, Knoxville, Tenn. (game in progress).

**AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.**—College basketball: Big East Conference Tournament, first round, Georgetown vs. Georgetown at Madison Square Garden, New York.

**AFN-Atlantic, 9 a.m.**—College basketball: Northeast Conference Tournament, first round, Wagner at Fairleigh Dickinson.

**AFN-Radio, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.**—New York's New Orleans.

**AFN-Atlantic, 11 a.m.**—College basketball: Big Sky Conference Tournament championship game, teams to be determined at Montana State University, Bozeman, Mont.

**AFN-Sports, 11:30 a.m.**—College basketball: Big East Conference Tournament, first round, Rutgers vs. Notre Dame at Madison Square Garden, New York.

**AFN-Sports, 8 p.m. to 9 a.m.**—Atlanta at Boston (td).

## Friday

**AFN-Sports, 2 p.m.**—College basketball: Big Ten Conference Tournament, first round, Michigan vs. Northwestern at United Center, Chicago.

**AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.**—College basketball: Big Ten Conference Tournament championship game, Purdue vs. Iowa at United Center, Chicago.

**AFN-Atlantic, 10 a.m.**—College basketball: Southeastern Conference Tournament, first round, Tennessee vs. Arkansas at Georgia Dome, Atlanta.

**AFN-Atlantic, 11:30 a.m.**—College basketball: Southeastern Conference Tournament, first round, Vanderbilt at Georgia Dome, Atlanta.

**AFN-Sports, 11:30 a.m.**—NBA: Lakers at Boston.

**AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.**—College basketball: Pacific-10 Conference Tournament quarterfinal, Arizona State vs. Washington at Staples Center, Los Angeles (td).

**AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.**—College basketball: Pacific-10 Conference Tournament quarterfinal, Arizona State vs. Washington at Staples Center, Los Angeles (td).

**AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.**—College basketball: Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament, first round, Virginia at MCI Center, Washington (td).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard Time. All times are subject to change. Visit [www.mysn.net](http://www.mysn.net) for more information.

## Baseball

## Spring training glance

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct
Detroit	1	0	.100
Chicago	1	0	.100
Baltimore	2	0	.667
Cleveland	2	0	.667
Tampa Bay	2	0	.667
Minn.	2	0	.667
LA Angels	2	0	.667
Kansas City	2	0	.667
LA Dodgers	1	0	.500
Seattle	1	0	.500

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	5	0	1.000
Chicago	4	0	.800
Washington	3	0	.600
St. Louis	3	0	.600
Colorado	2	0	.667
San Diego	2	0	.667
San Francisco	2	0	.667
Cincinnati	2	0	.667
Pittsburgh	2	0	.667
LA Dodgers	1	0	.500
LA Angels	1	0	.500
Houston	1	0	.500
NY Mets	1	0	.500

**NOTE:** Split-squad games count as two standings; games against non-league teams count as one.

**Monday's games**  
Washington, 6; Detroit, 7  
Baltimore, 5; Tampa Bay, 6  
Philadelphia, 5; Houston, 6  
Milwaukee, 5; Florida, 6  
St. Louis, 6; LA Dodgers, 6  
Cincinnati, 5; Pittsburgh, 6  
LA Dodgers, 5; Arizona, 6  
Colorado, 5; Arizona, 6

**Tuesday's games**  
N.Y. Yankees vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.  
Tampa Bay vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.  
Cleveland vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.  
Florida vs. LA Dodgers at Vero Beach, Fla.  
Tennessee vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Cincinnati vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.

Washington vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.  
Philadelphia vs. Toronto (3) at Duncannon, Pa.  
Toronto (5) vs. Minnesota (3) at St. Louis.  
Baltimore vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Texas vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
San Diego vs. Milwaukee (5) at Phoenix, Ariz.  
Oakland (5) vs. Chicago Cubs (5) at Chicago White Sox vs. Oakland at Tucson, Ariz.

Milwaukee (5) vs. Seattle at Phoenix, Ariz.  
LA Angels (5) vs. Chicago Cubs (5) at Mesa, Ariz.  
LA Angels (5) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.

LA Angels (5) vs. LA Angels at Tempe, Ariz.  
Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Baltimore vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Pittsburgh vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.

LA Angels (5) vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven, Fla.  
Detroit (5) vs. Washington at Vero Beach, Fla.  
LA Dodgers vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Fla.  
Tampa Bay vs. Detroit (5) at Lakeland, Fla.

Cincinnati (5) vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.  
St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.  
Texas vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.

Colorado vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, Ariz.  
San Francisco vs. Oakland at Phoenix, Ariz.  
LA Angels (5) vs. Arizona at Tucson, Ariz.

Chicago White Sox vs. San Diego (5) at Mesa, Ariz.  
San Diego (5) vs. LA Angels (5) at Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.

Detroit vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla.  
Pittsburgh vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.  
LA Dodgers vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.  
N.Y. Mets vs. Baltimore at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Florida vs. Washington (5) at Vero Beach, Fla.  
LA Dodgers vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Cleveland (5) vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Fla.

Cleveland (5) vs. Cleveland (5) at Winter Haven, Fla.  
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Toronto vs. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.  
LA Angels (5) vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Fla.

23. Wisconsin (2) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State at Penn State, Friday.

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# Cards, Lions go shopping

## Arizona adds two linemen, QB Warner; Detroit picks up S Kennedy, TE Pollard

The Associated Press

Arizona Cardinals coach Dennis Green dipped into the free-agent market for the third time in five days, signing defensive end Chike Okefor to go with quarterback Kurt Warner and offensive tackle Oliver Ross.

### NFL roundup

"I've been a big believer since the day I got here that Arizona has all the ingredients to attract the top NFL free agents, and our three signings are a great indication of that," said Green, in his second year with Arizona.

Okefor provides a strong upgrade for Arizona. He had a career-high 8½ sacks for Seattle last season after recording eight the previous season. He had two sacks and four tackles in the Seahawks' 27-20 loss to St. Louis in an NFC wild-card game.

Okefor, who also visited Denver, said during his visit to Ariz-

ona's headquarters on Saturday that it was obvious Green is serious about shaking the Cardinals' dormant image.

"From playing against them and watching on film, there is some heart there," he said.

The Cardinals also re-signed running back Troy Hambrick to a two-year contract.

Linebacker Kendall Bell, the defensive rookie of the year four seasons ago, signed a seven-year contract with the Kansas City Chiefs on Tuesday.

Bell, 6 feet 1, 257 pounds, was one of the last high-profile free agents on the market even though he played just three games last season with Pittsburgh. His best season came as a rookie in 2001, when made the Pro Bowl after recording 88 tackles, nine sacks and a pair of forced fumbles in his first season.

Bell was troubled with shoulder and groin injuries last week and the New York Giants passed on him as a free agent after a physical, although they did not specify the exact problem.

Detroit signed two players on Monday, landing hard-hitting safety Kenoy Kennedy and tight end Marcus Pollard.

Kennedy, who spent his entire five-year career with Denver, was about to board a flight to Miami to continue his free-agent tour, but had second thoughts and returned to the Lions' practice facility to sign a contract while the team was introducing Pollard.

"They were calling my name and saying that I had to get on the plane or I was going to get left behind," Kennedy said. "I told them to go ahead and leave me. I decided I wanted to be a Lion."

Kennedy was suspended for one game in 2002 for a helmet-to-helmet hit on Miami's Chris Chambers, and has been fined for similar plays at least three other times.

"I think I bring a presence," he said. "Receivers are looking for me, and they might develop allegi-



Detroit Lions coach Steve Mariucci, left, and team president Matt Millen, right, flank new signing Kenoy Kennedy, a hard-hitting safety who has spent his five-year NFL career with the Denver Broncos.

tor arms."

Kennedy has four career interceptions.

Pollard caught six Peyton Manning's record 49 TD passes last season with Indianapolis.

"Until a couple weeks ago, we didn't even expect that Marcus would be available, so we feel very good about adding him to the roster," team president Matt Millen said. "He brings experience, an understanding of how to win, and some great hands."

Pollard spent 10 seasons with Indianapolis. Last season, he caught 29 passes for 309 yards and six touchdowns. He missed three games with leg injuries.

The Dolphins signed two-time Pro Bowl player Kevin Carter to a five-year deal. A 10-year NFL veteran, Carter spent the past four seasons with Tennessee, but was released by the Titans in a salary-cap move.

The 6-foot-5, 290-pound Carter never has missed a game, totaling 598 tackles, 86 sacks, nine fumble recoveries and 16 forced fumbles. He earned Pro Bowl trips in 1999 and 2002, and a Super Bowl ring with the St. Louis Rams in 2000.

The Dolphins also cut wide receiver David Boston, who failed a physical. Boston signed last year, but missed the season with a knee injury. In December, he was suspended by the NFL for four games for testing positive for steroids. Boston has denied using steroids.

Cornberback Samari Rolle agreed to a six-year contract with the Baltimore Ravens. Rolle was a 2001 Pro Bowl selection with the Tennessee Titans.

Like new Ravens receiver Derrick Mason and Carter, Rolle was a salary-cap casualty in Tennessee.

In 2000, Rolle intercepted seven passes as the Titans went 13-3. He was limited to a ca-

reer-low 12 games last season because of an injured left knee that required arthroscopic surgery.

The Bears signed another Tennessee cap cut, right tackle Fred Miller. The 32-year-old veteran, who hasn't missed a start since 1998, agreed to a five-year deal.

The 6-foot-7, 320-pound Miller was cut by the Titans last month so he wouldn't count \$9.32 million against this year's salary cap. Financial terms of his deal with the Bears weren't disclosed.

The Patriots re-signed fullback Patrick Pass, an unrestricted free agent.

The Browns continued to rebuild their offensive line Tuesday, agreeing to terms on a two-year contract with former Tampa Bay guard Casey Coleman.

Coleman, a 26-year-old four-year starter with the Buccaneers, is the second free agent guard signed by the Browns. Last week, the Browns signed former New England guard Joe Andruzzi to a four-year \$9 million deal.

Cornberback Willie Williams re-signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers for two years. The unrestricted free agent started the final 10 regular-season games and both playoff contests after Chad Scott injured his knee Oct. 17.

The Buccaneers re-signed wide receiver Joey Galloway, who made just seven starts in 2004. The Redskins agreed to terms with Mike Sellers, a special teams standout who made 29 tackles in kickoff and punt coverage last season. He also is the backup to starting H-back Chris Cooley.

The Falcons signed safety Rich Coody, another low-key acquisition for the team that reached the NFC title game last season.

Kicker Jay Feely, replaced by Todd Peterson after four years with the Falcons, signed with the Giants.

# NHL talks planned this week

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Now the NHL and the players' association will start trying to save next season.

### Sports briefs

Less than three weeks after commissioner Bettman canceled the

2004-05 NHL season, he invited union executive director Bob Goodenow back to the bargaining table for talks this week.

Countless meetings and proposals weren't enough to end the lockout that began in September, so Bettman wants to get talks going as soon as possible before next season is put in jeopardy, too.

He contacted Goodenow late last week to request a meeting, and the players' association agreed to get together, NHL chief officer Bill Daly said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday.

The date, time and location of the next round of talks wasn't announced.

Smith will be the first bargaining session since Feb. 19, when the sides met in a desperate attempt to save the season three days after Bettman canceled it. But even the presence of Wayne Gretzky and Mario Lemieux wasn't enough to get owners and players to reach an agreement.

### Chargers give GM Smith three-year contract

SAN DIEGO — General manager A.J. Smith was given a three-year contract extension through 2009 on Monday, his reward for helping transform the San Diego Chargers from the NFL's doormat to a playoff team in one season.

Smith originally signed a four-year deal in April 2003, when he was promoted to GM 11 days after his longtime friend and colleague, John Butler, died.

"I do believe we've got it going in the right direction," Smith said. "We're very pleased with last year. We chased the championship but still short of it. Hopefully we'll keep banging away at this thing and continue to be in the postseason. Maybe there will be a special year built in there where we win a world championship."

San Diego was an NFL worst 4-12 in 2003, but won the AFC West with a 12-4 record last season to reach the playoffs for the first time in nine seasons.

### Proposed Gatti-Mayweather bout canceled

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A proposed fight between WBC super lightweight champion Arturo Gatti and undefeated challenger Floyd Mayweather Jr. has been scratched.

Donald Tremblay, a spokesman for Gatti's promoter, Main Events Inc., said Mayweather (33-0, 22 knockouts) missed a Friday deadline to sign a contract agreeing to fight Gatti on June 11.

Main Events will find a boxer to face Gatti (39-6, 29 knockouts) on that date, Tremblay said.

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Creighton's Tyler McKinney hoists the Missouri Valley Champions sign after his team beat Southwest Missouri State in the tournament final.

## Creighton is in; MVC awaits more berths

By R.B. FALLSTROM  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Creighton leaned heavily on its bench, and the usual barrage of three-pointers, to win its fifth Missouri Valley Conference tournament in seven years.

Reserves Dane Watts and Jimmy Motz combined for half of the school's 12 three-pointers, and the Bluejays pulled away late for a 75-57 victory over Southwest Missouri State in the championship game Monday night.

"Motz and Watts really delivered for us," coach Dana Altman said. "It's an incredible feeling."

Motz was 4-for-7 from three-point range and scored 12 points for Creighton (23-10), which lost twice in the regular season to Southwest Missouri. Watts was 2-for-4 from three-point range and had 14 points.

"I wasn't scared," Watts said. "I had to step up for my teammates."

Together, they helped Creighton, which averages 8.5 three-pointers, overcome overall 43 percent shooting and an off game from leading scorer Nate Funk to earn a sixth trip in seven seasons to the NCAA tournament. Johnny Mathies also had 14 points for the winners.

"Just providing the spark, I guess, has been kind of my role all year," Motz said. "The main thing is 10 guys found a way to get it done in three days, and we can relax this week and find out where we're going to be playing."

Duke Thompson had 14 points and Anthony Shavies 10 for Southwest Missouri (18-12), which also lost the tournament championship game last year and was shut out of the postseason. Southwest Missouri has been in the title game five times in the last eight seasons, but hasn't won since 1992.

Coach Barry Hinson said his team will get an NIT bid this season.

"I'm actually looking forward to more basketball this season," forward Tamar Macin said. "I mean, postseason is postseason."

Conference commissioner Doug Elgin was optimistic the Valley would receive three NCAA bids for the first time since 1999, with regular-season champion Southern Illinois, Wichita State and Northern Iowa also in the running. The Valley is ranked eighth in the RPI.

Southwest Missouri upset Southern Illinois in the semifinals, rallying from a 23-point second-half deficit.

"I feel pretty good about three teams," Elgin said. "This has been a groundbreaking year for us. I even think four teams is possible. The basketball community should respect our league."

Creighton doesn't have to worry about any of that.

"Well, it'll definitely make the week go better," Altman said. "It's definitely a relief."

Creighton has a season total of 285 three-pointers, second most in Valley history, and was 12-for-25 in the title game. That helped the Bluejays end a four-game losing streak against the Bears despite only eight points from Funk, 10 below his average, on 3-for-12 shooting.

"He made a lot of opportunities for his teammates because they paid so much attention to him, but he didn't shoot it good," Altman said. "We were very fortunate that Jimmy picked up the three-point shooting, and Dane and other guys stepped up."

The game seemed set for a tense finish when Macin made a three-point play with 7:24 to go to cut Southwest Missouri's deficit to 52-50. But consecutive three-pointers by Tyler McKinney and Motz, only 53 seconds apart put Creighton ahead 60-50 with four minutes left.

"You're like 'Wow!'" Hinson said. "We just couldn't stop the bleeding. I would have liked for the ending chapter of this deal to be different."

# Loughton takes over in OT, leads Monarchs to NCAAAs

By HANK KURZ JR.  
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Old Dominion wanted to take the "11" out of its chances for making the NCAA tournament. Alex Loughton made it happen.

The Colonial Athletic Association player of the year took control of the game when the Monarchs needed him to Monday night, leading Old Dominion to a 73-66 victory against Virginia Commonwealth in overtime of the conference championship, and automatically into the field of 65.

The 6-foot-9 forward from Australia scored six of his 28 points in overtime, and the top-seeded Monarchs were clutch in the stretch, making their final 12 free throws to withstand the Rams' last-gasp comeback.

"I thought tonight was my night, and I was going to sort of outsmart and out-tough the opposition," Loughton said after making 12 of 19 shots and grabbing 11 rebounds. "I really thought I found my niche tonight."

The Monarchs (28-5) might have been able to lose and still get in, but didn't relish waiting around until Selection Sunday to find out.

"We wanted to take care of our business ourselves," said guard Drew Williamson, who played 91 minutes in the tournament without a turnover.

But it was Loughton, most of all, who made it so.

He scored on a drive with 52 seconds left in regulation, was fouled and made the tying free throw, Old Dominion's only points in the last five minutes of regulation. Then he took charge once overtime began.

"When it came time to make a play, it had to be made," he said.

Once in the extra session, Loughton scored inside, hit from about 17 feet and made two free throws, giving the Monarchs a 61-57 lead.

They sealed it at the line, making 12 straight shots to clinch their first NCAA berth since 1997, when VCU coach Jeff Capel's father took them there.

"I just can't say enough about how strong of a will our kids had to hang in there when everything was going right for the other team, and give ourselves a chance in regulation," Monarchs coach Blaine Taylor said.

"We had no answer for Loughton," Capel said. "He's a real, real good player — borderline great — and I don't throw that word around much."

The Rams (19-12) cut a 69-43 deficit in half on B.A. Walker's three-pointer with 1:53 seconds left, but Williamson hit a pair of free throws with 12 seconds to play and the Monarchs were finally tournament bound.

Kiah Thomas scored 14 and Isaiah Hunter 13 for Old Dominion.

Jesse Pellot-Rosa led the Rams with 15 points, Walker had 14 and Nick George and Michael Doles each had 11, though both shot poorly.



Old Dominion's Alex Loughton celebrates after his MVP performance earned the Monarchs the Colonial Athletic Association title and an NCAA tournament bid.

"It was hard to get open looks, and when we did get them, we didn't knock them down," said Doles, a senior who came in averaging 15 points, but shot just 6-for-23 in the semifinals and championship.

The Rams, seeded second in the tournament, joined semifinals losers North Carolina-Wilmington and Hofstra in hoping for bids to the NIT.

"Hopefully we have at least one more game left," Capel said.

## Men's automatic tournament bids

Central Florida, Atlantic Sun Conference  
Chattanooga, Southern Conference  
Creighton, Missouri Valley Conference  
Eastern Kentucky, Ohio Valley Conference  
Gonzaga, West Coast Conference  
Niagara, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference  
Old Dominion, Colonial Athletic Association  
Pennsylvania, Ivy League  
Winthrop, Big South Conference

# Mendez ends Niagara's 35-year wait

By JOHN WAWROW  
The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Juan Mendez can finally breathe easy. The weight of Niagara's 34-year NCAA tournament drought is finally over.

Starting with a massive dunk, the senior forward hit 10 of his first 12 shots and finished with 27 points in leading the Purple Eagles to an 81-59 win over Rider in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship on Monday night.

The win clinched Niagara's second NCAA tournament berth, and

first since 1970 when the Calvin Murphy-led Purple Eagles reached the second round. It also ended a string of frustrating close calls for a program that had lost two MAAC championship games in the last three years.

"It's huge," Mendez said. "People have been waiting 35 years for this. And we finally got it done."

"We finally did it," added senior point guard Alvin Cruz.

It was extra special for Cruz to win with Mendez, teammates recruited together five years ago out of Florida Air Academy.

"He was finishing everything,

he was being a leader," Cruz said. "He showed he was the best player in this conference tonight."

Lorenzo Miles had 16 points, while David Brooks scored 12 and added nine assists for Niagara (20-9), which lost 62-61 to Manhattan in last year's final. Mendez added 13 rebounds to be named the tournament's MVP.

A largely partisan Purple Eagles crowd — Niagara is located about 20 minutes from Buffalo — stormed the court as the final buzzer sounded. It took officials almost 15 minutes to clear the court to present Niagara with its trophy.

After 34 years, the wait was worth it.



## SPORTS



Cardinals sign  
defensive end Okefor,  
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## Gonzaga silences critics

Zags capture  
6th WCC title  
in 7 seasons

BY JANIE MCCAULEY  
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — This season started with talk that Gonzaga might no longer be the best team in the West Coast Conference.

It ended with the Zags on top for the sixth time in seven years. Adam Morrison scored 30 points and keyed a big second-half run to lead No. 11 Gonzaga to an 80-67 victory over Saint Mary's on Monday night in a meeting of the conference's top two teams.

"Obviously being how young we are, over the summer we heard a lot of whispers about us finishing second or fourth in this league, and it kind of put a little chip on our shoulders," said Morrison, the tournament MVP. "We read the Web sites. We heard what people were saying around town."

Ronny Turiaf added 18 points and 14 rebounds as the Zags (25-4) earned a seventh straight NCAA tournament bid with their 12th consecutive victory. Gonzaga beat the second-seeded Gaels in the title game for the second straight season.

Daniel Kickert scored 27 points with a career-high seven three-pointers, and Paul Marigney had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Saint Mary's (25-8), which still has a chance to earn the school's first NCAA tournament bid since 1997.

"I would have to question the process if we're out," Saint Mary's coach Randy Bennett said. "We played in a good conference. We lost to a good team. I think we've done all we could do other than win tonight."

Morrison scored the Zags' first seven points after halftime, including a three-point play that started a 15-3 run. He threw his arm into the air to celebrate in the final minute and called for Gonzaga's many fans to rise to their feet.

"Adam's a big-time player," Zags coach Mark Few said. "The bigger the moment, the better he is. He is the reason we've run off as many straight as we have. He's defending and he's making everybody better on both ends."

Turiaf, who had four second-half blocks, responded with a big night after a poor performance in Gonzaga's 90-74 semifinal win over San Diego on Sunday.

Derek Raivio added 16 points to help Gonzaga snap the Gaels' five-game winning streak.



Gonzaga's Ronny Turiaf, left, is defended by Saint Mary's Frederic Adjiwanou in the second half of the West Coast Conference tournament championship game in Santa Clara, Calif., on Monday.

Of all the talented Gonzaga teams during the program's recent run, some say this could potentially be the best one.

After Kickert's three with 16:20 left pulled the Gaels to 41-40, Gonzaga scored 10 straight points and held the Gaels to one field goal in 10 minutes. Marigney scored five straight to pull Saint Mary's to 53-47 with 8:01 to go, but the Gaels couldn't get closer.

The Bulldogs, who played in the tournament championship game for the eighth straight year,

haven't lost since a 73-70 defeat at San Francisco on Jan. 20.

Gonzaga's red-clad fans chanted "This is our house!" before the game, a reminder that the Zags have won eight straight in the Leavely Center, Santa Clara's home arena.

Most of the sellout crowd was in red actually, one of the colors for both teams.

Kickert made five first-half three-pointers.

E.J. Rowland had six of his nine assists in the first half, but

Saint Mary's started the second half 2-for-13, missed four crucial free throws and was sloppy with the ball. The Gaels committed three shot-clock violations and a halfcourt violation.

"We still had some good looks in the second half," Rowland said. "They just didn't fall our way."

The WCC has sent two teams to the tournament only five times in the last 15 years, but the Gaels are hoping their 25 wins will be the difference for the selection committee next Sunday.



Old Dominion  
locks up NCAA  
berth with CAA  
tournament title

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Wade pushes  
Heat closer  
to home-court  
advantage

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Giambi responds  
to Sox fans' taunts  
with first homer  
of spring

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